

### Egyptian rights group raps militants

CAIRO (R) — An Egyptian human rights group on Tuesday condemned militants who launched attacks that killed eight policemen and three civilians in southern Egypt. The Egyptian Organisation for Human Rights (EOHR) said it was horrified by Monday's attacks with it considered "a dangerous escalation for the criminal activity carried out by certain terrorist groups which belong to the political Islamic trend." In a statement issued to international news agencies, the EOHR said members of the Al Gamaa Al Islamiyah blocked a major road near the southern town of Mafraq, 260 kilometers south of Cairo, forced the passengers out and started shooting at random. (see page 2) It said most of the policemen killed were army conscripts who had no relation with police units combating terrorism. "The EOHR affirms its total rejection of all justifications given by these groups to legitimise their terrorist crimes and grave violations of the basic right of any human being, the right to live," the statement said.

Volume 19 Number 5809

AMMAN WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 4, 1995, SHAABAN 3, 1415

SERIALS  
DIVISION

# Jordan Times

An independent Arab political daily published by the Jordan Times Foundation  
جريدة عن المؤسسة الصحفية الأردنية - الرأي

Price: Jordan 150 Fils

## Peace process in crisis, PLO warns at Cairo talks

Settlements, killing of policemen, prisoners key issues

CAIRO (Agencies) — The Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) warned Tuesday that the peace process was in crisis as Israel and the Palestinians opened self-rule talks overshadowed by the expansion of Jewish settlements and the killing of three Gaza policemen.

PLO chief negotiator Nabil Shaath and Israeli Foreign Minister Shimon Peres headed their delegations to the new round of talks aimed at expanding Palestinian self-rule on the West Bank.

Dr. Shaath said that major problems facing the peace process included settlement building on the West Bank, Israel's ban on PLO activities in East Jerusalem and the fate of 6,000 Palestinian prisoners.

He spoke of a "sense of crisis" and accused the Israeli army of a "flagrant" violation of the self-rule accords for crossing into Gaza on Monday night and killing three policemen in a clash which each side blamed on the other (see separate story).

Mr. Peres denied there was a violation and refused to discuss the settlements at the talks.

The self-rule accord called for settlements to be taken up at a later stage in negotiations and expansion at existing settlements would continue, he said.

"Israel has decided gradually not to add any new

### Palestinian police arrest

#### 10 Israeli soldiers in Gaza

GAZA CITY (AFP) — Palestinian police Tuesday arrested 10 Israeli soldiers in civilian clothes near Khan Younes in the autonomous Gaza Strip.

"We captured 10 Israeli soldiers wearing civilian clothes and transferred them to the (joint) liaison committee's offices in Khan Younes," said Palestinian police chief Nasser Yusef.

The soldiers were later handed over to the Israeli authorities, he said, without giving further details.

Witnesses said the soldiers probably belonged to a special army undercover unit, whose members wear civilian clothes or traditional Palestinian dress.

An army spokesman was unable to confirm the report.

Israeli Tourism Minister Uzi Baran Tuesday decided not to visit Jericho after the Palestinian authorities refused to allow his bodyguards to accompany him there.

Mr. Baran was due to meet Palestinian tour operators and hoteliers to discuss tourism projects in the region.

The Palestinian police told us they refused to let my bodyguards enter Jericho with me and that they would be responsible for my security," Mr. Baran said at the entrance to the self-rule enclave.

A bus provided by the Israeli tourism ministry which was carrying Mr. Baran along with Israeli tour operators, hoteliers and businessmen later returned to Jerusalem.

Israeli television said the Palestinian decision was prompted by fears of a clash between the minister's bodyguards and Palestinian police.

settlements in the West Bank and Gaza. We distinguish between building new settlements and thickening the existing ones. We cannot stop," he said.

His government Tuesday authorised the construction of 260 homes at the Ephrat settlement on the West Bank, after Palestinian National Authority, said the government.

(Continued on page 12)

ment's decision Monday to halt work at a site further away did not go far enough because it allowed the settlers to build at another site.

"Mr. Rabin can't solve the problem by moving bulldozers from one hilltop to another," Dr. Erakat said. "Rabin has to make clear, and the Israeli people must know, it's either settlements or peace."

Mr. Rabin told the Israeli parliament (Knesset) Monday that "at no price will we continue to build at Givat Hatamar," referring to the hill near Ephrat where bulldozers have been working for more than a week.

But the construction work could be transferred to areas in the immediate vicinity of Ephrat, instead of the hill.

"We will remain committed to building in the immediate neighbourhood of Ephrat," he said.

Israeli Housing Minister Binyamin Ben-Elizer said while he supported the government compromise over Ephrat he worried it would set a precedent Palestinians would use to fight further building.

Palestinian National Authority member Zakaria Al Agha, in charge of housing in self-rule areas, said Israel's decision gave official sanction to further settlement building before self-rule was expanded in the West Bank.

(Continued on page 12)

settlements in the West Bank and Gaza. We distinguish between building new settlements and thickening the existing ones. We cannot stop," he said.

His government Tuesday authorised the construction of 260 homes at the Ephrat settlement on the West Bank, after Palestinian National Authority, said the government.

(Continued on page 12)

## Mourners demand vengeance at PNA policemen's funeral

Israel, PLO accuse each other of starting clash that killed 3 policemen

GAZA CITY (Agencies) — Palestinian mourners on Tuesday called for vengeance for the killing of three Gaza policemen by Israeli soldiers, as commanders on both sides agreed to step up coordination with their weapons."

Israel and the PNA nevertheless decided to step up coordination to avoid such incidents from happening again during a meeting between the commander of Israel's southern region General Shaul Mofaz and Palestinian police chief Nasser Yusef, Israeli military officials said.

But an army spokesman said: "No soldier has disappeared."

He said an unidentified caller had telephoned the Arabic service of Israel radio and announced on behalf of the Islamic Resistance Movement, (Hamas), that an Israeli soldier had been kidnapped in Jerusalem.

The Israeli army meanwhile denied that Palestinians had kidnapped one of its soldiers, saying a claim to

that effect had turned out to be false.

Yosef Bagad, a deputy from the right-wing Moledet party, had told parliament that soldier had been kidnapped in Arab East Jerusalem.

But an army spokesman said: "No soldier has disappeared."

He said an unidentified caller had telephoned the Arabic service of Israel radio and announced on behalf of the Islamic Resistance Movement, (Hamas), that an Israeli soldier had been kidnapped in Jerusalem.

But the caller had not pro-

(Continued on page 2)

## Russian assault on Grozny fizzling out

GROZNY (Agencies) — Russian warplanes and artillery pounded Chechnya Tuesday in an apparent effort to protect some 60 tanks stranded in a failed ground offensive against the Chechen capital.

Streets littered with bodies and charred tanks echoed with blasts from Russian canons, mortars and rockets and return fire from the Chechens.

On the road to the northwest, a main artery of the Russian attack, the wrecks of at least 15 Russian tanks and armoured vehicles were strewn along the wayside. The bodies of some 30 Russian soldiers lay nearby.

Three artillery shells fell close to the presidential palace, still in the hands of the Chechens, forcing dozens of Chechen fighters to run for cover.

Another shell hit the roof, taking out the pole from which the red, white and green Chechen flag had flut-

tered defiantly atop the 11-storey building.

An hour later, a high-flying Russian plane was seen dropping two bombs on Grozny or its suburbs. At dawn, two planes dropped four bombs over the town, which was also shelled overnight.

Russia intervened in Chechnya, a Caucasus republic of some 1.3 million people, on Dec. 11 to crush a three-year-old independence drive by the Chechens, a fiercely proud people who hate the Russians.

On Saturday, the Russians began a fierce assault to seize Grozny itself, but the vastly outgunned Chechens have managed to hold on to the capital.

The Interfax news agency reported Tuesday from Moscow that Russian forces have abandoned the centre of Grozny in ruins, leaving about 100 bodies in the streets.

The last official toll, issued on Dec. 31, said 61 Russian soldiers had been killed and

(Continued on page 3)



Palestinian residents of the Salfit village on the West Bank hold Palestinian flags and protest against work to build a new fence around the Jewish settlement of Ariel on Tuesday which they say passes over their land (AFP photo)

## Senate endorses '95 draft budget

By a Jordan Times Staff Reporter

AMMAN — The Upper House of Parliament (Senate) on Tuesday unanimously endorsed the 1995 draft budget of JD 1.674 billion after hearing a report by its Finance Committee's rapporteur, Kamal Shaer, approving of the draft and 13 senators' remarks on the draft law.

The 30 senators present approved the draft budget during a session which was attended by Prime Minister Abdul Salam Majali and cabinet members; 10 senators were absent.

Secondly, he said, there will be more reliance on adapting the educational process to the requirements of the labour market.

The government is totally in agreement with the Finance Committee that more strenuous efforts would be made towards preparing and training Jordanian workforce to take up jobs required by the local labour market. Dr. Majali said more attention will be given to vocational

(Continued on page 3)

## Abdul Meguid: No early Arab summit

Adhered to United Nations resolutions.

"There will be no meaning to a meeting for Arab reconciliation ... until Iraq transforms all mandates and articles in these (U.N.) resolutions into a reality," the Kuwait News Agency (KUNA) quoted the minister as saying.

Dr. Abdul Meguid, on a Gulf tour aimed at fostering Arab unity, added that 14 Arab states had told him they wanted some form of reconciliation but a summit was not immediately in prospect, he told Al Arba newspaper in an interview.

"There must be preparations for an Arab summit so it can achieve its goals, and the circumstances of an Arab summit are not existing," he was quoted as saying. "Holding an Arab summit is a matter that is not currently envisaged."

The secretary general told reporters in Cairo on Monday that he was optimistic that a summit would take place after a meeting of leaders of Egypt, Syria and Saudi Arabia in Alexandria last week.

He arrived in Kuwait later that day for three days of talks before visiting Saudi Arabia and the United Arab Emirates.

Kuwait's Foreign Minister Sheikh Sabah Al Ahmad Al Jaber Al Sabah said after talks with Dr. Abdul Meguid that holding meetings to end Arab rifts dating back to the Gulf crisis was pointless unless Iraq, which occupied the emirate for seven months,

## Recruit police from camps — Lebanon

BEIRUT (AFP) — Lebanon will propose at an Arab interior ministers' meeting which opens Wednesday in Tunis that new members of the Palestinian police be recruited in refugee camps on its territory, officials said Tuesday. According to the proposal, the new recruits would be chosen among supporters of Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) leader Yasser Arafat and could take with them medium and light weapons which still abound in Lebanon's Palestinian refugee camps. Their transfer to the autonomous regions of Gaza and Jericho would "ease the cost of training new recruits," one official said. Lebanese Interior Minister Michel Murr has prepared a motion inviting "the Palestinian self-rule authority to recruit hundreds of trained Palestinians, who are present in refugee camps in Lebanon," the official said. Informed sources here said the Lebanese proposal was aimed at reducing the numbers of Mr. Arafat's armed loyalists in Lebanon, where support for the PLO chief has widely decreased since he signed autonomy accords with Israel last year.

## Stage set for cabinet change

By a Jordan Times Staff Reporter

AMMAN — With the final approval of the 1995 fiscal budget by the Upper House of Parliament (Senate) on Tuesday, the ground is set for a new executive team that would move the country beyond the "transition stage."

The first is represented in increasing savings for investments either through the commercial banks or directly in income-generating projects.

Secondly, he said, there will be more reliance on adapting the educational process to the requirements of the labour market.

The government is totally in agreement with the Finance Committee that more strenuous efforts would be made towards preparing and training Jordanian workforce to take up jobs required by the local labour market. Dr. Majali said more attention will be given to vocational

(Continued on page 3)

## Jordan to try 4 suspects involved in Beqaa attack

AMMAN (R) — Four militants will stand trial for attacking a Jordanian intelligence office, apparently to avenge death sentences against other militants, an official said on Tuesday.

The prosecutor general is wrapping up their case and he will soon send it to the State Security Court, one official told Reuters. He gave no date.

One suspect, Yousef Ahmad Salameh, 22, is a corporal in the Amman-based units of the Palestine Liberation Organisation's (PLO) Palestine Liberation Army, he said. All were below 30 years of age.

Last month's sentences will automatically be appealed to a higher court. King Hussein has commuted all previous death sentences for political crimes.

Arab states, like Egypt and Algeria, accuse veterans of the Afghan war that toppled the Soviet-backed Kabul government in 1992 of trying to overthrow their own governments.

Three of those sentenced to hang were tried in absentia and remain at large. Three others had death sentences commuted to life terms. Four received sentences from 7-1/2 to 20 years, while seven men were acquitted.

## British businessmen expect Jordan to benefit from European tourism

By a Jordan Times Staff Reporter

AMMAN — More than half of British businesses expect Jordan to benefit from European tourism in the wake of the elimination of tension and uncertainty following the signing of the Jordan-Israel peace treaty in October, a survey conducted by a London-based group has found.

The survey, carried out by Middle East Consultants, found that 56 per cent of British businesses also expect new business opportunities arising in the Levant in an era of peace.

The poll was conducted among more than 200 participants in a "Europe and the Arab World" conference held under the Arab League umbrella in London in December. Middle East Consultants said a release sent to the Jordan Times.

James Reeve of the research division of the British consultants was quoted as saying in the release: "There is clearly confidence that there will be real business resulting from the peace process and British companies are well placed to take advantage of this."

The survey found 52 per

cent of those polled believed that Jordan stood to benefit most from increased European tourism, followed by the West Bank (24 per cent), Syria (eight per cent) and Lebanon (six per cent).

More than two-thirds of those polled (70 per cent) saw the West Bank as offering better business prospects than the Gaza Strip following the implementation of Palestinian autonomy in Gaza and the West Bank town of Jericho in May 1994.

Similarly, 82 per cent said they expected Beirut, the Lebanese capital, to regain its pre-civil crisis status as the financial hub of the Arab World in 1995, the survey results said.

More than half of those polled (54 per cent) also expected oil prices to weaken in 1995, and 78 per cent predicted privatisation moves in the oil-rich Gulf states would fail to take off.

In North Africa, 32 per cent of the target audience said fewer benefits could be expected from privatisation in Morocco, which has adopted a sweeping liberalisation programme, but 50 per cent believed that British companies stood to gain from privatisation in Tunisia.

Following is a summary of

the survey results as provided by Middle East Consultants:

### North Africa

Question: Do you think political unrest in Algeria is likely to affect other North African markets in 1995?  
Answer: Yes: 52 per cent; No: 68 per cent

Q: Do you expect privatisation in Morocco to benefit your business in the coming year?  
A: Yes: 32 per cent; No: 68 per cent

Q: Do you expect privatisation in Tunisia to benefit your business in the coming year?  
A: Yes: 50 per cent; No: 50 per cent

Q: Will European grants (Medinet) encourage you to establish a joint venture in North Africa in 1995?  
A: Yes: 18 per cent; No: 82 per cent

### The Levant

Q: Do you think the peace process will generate business opportunities for your company in 1995?  
A: Yes: 56 per cent; No: 44 per cent

Q: Will Gaza or the West Bank offer most business

opportunities in 1995?  
A: Yes: 30 per cent; No: 70 per cent

Q: Do you see Beirut regaining its former status as the financial centre of the Arab World in the year ahead?  
A: Yes: 18 per cent; No: 82 per cent

Q: Which of the following is likely to attract a growing share of European tourism in 1995?  
A: Jordan: 52 per cent; Syria: 18 per cent; Lebanon: 6 per cent; West Bank 24 per cent

### The Gulf

Q: Do you expect oil prices to strengthen or weaken in the coming year?  
A: Strengthen: 46 per cent; Weaken: 54 per cent

Q: Will privatisation become a major trend in the Gulf in 1995?  
A: Yes: 22 per cent; No: 78 per cent

Q: Are you planning joint ventures in the Gulf in the coming year?  
A: Yes: 26 per cent; No: 74 per cent

Q: Do you consider Gulf security to be under threat in 1995?  
A: Yes: 16 per cent; No: 84 per cent

### The Gulf

## Mourners demand revenge

(Continued from page 1)  
vived any proof in support of his claim.

"The army has carried out checks and is now in a position to deny this claim," the spokesman said.

In Damascus, Hamas vowed on Tuesday to avenge the killing of the three Palestinian.

The group, which is opposed to the Israeli-PLO self-rule deal, said in a statement faxed to the offices of an international news agency in Damascus that it considered the slain policemen as "Hamas martyrs."

Palestinian officials denied their police fired the first shots in Monday's attack, and Israeli media speculation on Tuesday focused on the possibility they came from a third source — perhaps anti-peace activists who fired from a neighbouring orchard.

The soldiers later closed in on a house where they believed the gunmen were hiding, and ordered in English and Arabic those inside to surrender.

Ahmad Tibi, an adviser to Mr. Arafat, said one of the dead policeman was shot while asleep in his bed.

"The Palestinian police didn't fire first on the Israeli soldiers," Dr. Tibi told Israeli

Television. "One of the Palestinian police was shot while sleeping in his bed and his body was found in the bed."

The Israeli army colonel said one policeman surrendered when the Israelis asked that they come out of the house. But he said a second one came out shouting "Allahu Akbar" and firing. This policeman was shot dead.

According to the Israeli army report on Monday's attack, snipers late on Monday opened fire on an Israeli command-car on patrol near the Erez crossing, prompting the soldiers to seek back-up and launch a chase inside Gaza.

The soldiers later closed in on a house where they believed the gunmen were hiding, and ordered in English and Arabic those inside to surrender.

One Palestinian policeman did give himself up, but the others opened fire, and the Israeli soldiers attacked the house, hurling a grenade inside and spraying it with bullets.



FAMILY OF VICTIM: Mourning Palestinian women try to comfort 22-year-old Anas after she was told that her husband Naseer Hureim, 34, was shot dead by Israeli troops along with fellow activist Rami Shabat in a fire fight south of Bethlehem in the West Bank on Monday.

## Gamaa claims 15 policemen killed

CAIRO (Agencies) — The underground Gamaa Al Islamiyyan has claimed responsibility for the wave of deadly attacks on policemen in south Egypt, saying it avenged the killings of its militants at the hands of police.

It also said 15 policemen died in the four separate attacks, rather than eight policemen and three civilians as reported by the Interior Ministry.

"At the start of 1995 and with the backing of our people in Mallawi, our mujahideen fighters carried out the 'law of talion' against 13 criminals of the security forces," Gamaa said in a statement.

Claiming responsibility for all attacks carried out in Cairo and southern Egypt since August, the group called on policemen and soldiers to join its ranks in the fight to overthrow the government.

Its statement was signed "the battalions of the martyr Talaat Yassine Hammam," after the former chief of the Gamaa military wing who was killed by police last April.

The group was "more determined than ever to pursue the jihad."

The Interior Ministry and police said the four attacks all took place near the town of Mallawi, about 300 kilometres south of Cairo, within the space of an hour.

They were among the bloodiest incidents since militants launched a violent anti-government campaign in March 1992. The campaign has cost 567 lives, according to an AFP count.

The gunmen fled and security forces launched a huge manhunt in the region, questioning hundreds of people and making dozens of arrests. All the attacks targeted vehicles with policemen on board.

Police said earlier that the attacks were believed to be the work of the Gamma

### JORDAN TELEVISION

Tel: 773111-19

### PROGRAMME TWO

Diplomatic

17/30 ... *Thalassa*

18/30 ... *Musique Sans Frontieres*

News in French

19/30 ... *Home Improvement*

19/45 ... *E-M6*

20/00 ... *Life in the Fitter*

Quarantine Letters

21/15 ... *Health and Order*

22/00 ... *News in English*

22/20 ... *Snowy River*

23/10 ... *Coming of Age*

23/10 ... *Al Asmaa*

## Jordanian, Israeli businessmen explore ways to cooperate

**Israel business group leader optimistic**

By P.V. Vivekanand  
Jordan Times Staff Reporter

**AMMAN** — The heads of the Jordanian and Israeli federations of chambers of commerce met for the first time in Amman on Tuesday in what was described as an Israeli message of assurance to Jordanians that peace has its economic dividends that could be reaped together.

Dan Gillerman, head of the Israeli Federation of Chambers of Commerce, who led the Israeli team to the talks with Haider Murad, president of the Jordanian Federation of Commerce, described the meetings as aimed at setting up a framework for relations between the two sides.

Mr. Gillerman said that during the meeting it was agreed to work towards formalising an agreement on cooperation between the two federations, and look closely at joint ventures that would allow Jordanians to take advantage of the privileged status Israel enjoys under accords signed with the United States and Europe.

According to Mr. Gillerman, Israeli manufacturers and exporters were interested in exploring possibilities of setting up joint ventures under which "the manufacturing could be done in Jordan and the finishing could be done in Israel."

The finished products could be exported to North America and Europe under favourable terms which include tariff-free Israeli imports to those countries under the privileged trade agreements that Israel has concluded, noted Mr. Gillerman, who sounded highly positive about prospects for such projects.

"We are aware that there is scepticism among Jordanians about the pace at which economic cooperation with Israel should proceed and over the dividends of peace," said Mr. Gillerman.

"I believe that our visit here is very timely (given this scepticism) in that it is sending a message to Jordanians that 'peace pays' and the 'dividends of peace are there and there to be reaped together'."

"It is the first time that the heads of the federations of chambers of commerce of the two countries met," noted Mr. Gillerman, who arrived here on Monday leading a 25-member delegation for talks with

Jordanian counterparts.

Mr. Gillerman said the meeting was suggested by His Royal Highness Crown Prince Hassan on the fringes of the Oct. 30-Nov. 1 economic conference on the Middle East and North Africa held in Casablanca, Morocco.

During the meeting, attended by the members of the board of the Jordanian Federation of Chambers of Commerce, Mr. Murad "advocated a cautious approach to economic ties," Mr. Gillerman told the Jordan Times in a telephone interview.

Mr. Murad also emphasised the need to create a mechanism for cooperation between the Israeli and Jordanian private sectors addressing the concerns of both sides, he said.

The two sides also discussed preparations for a conference to be held in Amman this year as a follow-up to the Casablanca meeting and possibilities of joint projects to be presented at the gathering, Mr. Gillerman said.

Also discussed during Tuesday's talks was the creation of a regional chamber of commerce, "which, hopefully, will eventually include all other countries in the region — Syria, Lebanon and Iraq," Mr. Gillerman said.

Mr. Gillerman described the members of the delegation accompanying him as distinguished businessmen with large operations in Israel in foodstuff, medicine, textiles, and agriculture.

The team also includes heads of the largest department stores in Israel which would like to import Jordanian products, he said.

"There is also a firm commitment to hold a Jordan Week in Israel," to familiarise Israelis with Jordanian products, Mr. Gillerman said, adding that no date had been fixed for the event.

The Israeli team also invited Mr. Murad to visit Israel along with a delegation of Jordanians interested in doing business with Israelis, he added.

No comment was immediately available from Mr. Murad.

Simultaneous with the formal talks between the federation heads and officials, members of the Israeli delegation met with Jordanian businessmen to discuss immediate possibilities of trade.

However, no actual deal

is expected to be executed until the two sides finalise a trade accord as called for in the peace treaty.

The Israeli team, which included several Israeli bankers, crossed to Jordan through the newly opened Jordan River Bridge and will return home across the Arava Crossing in the south after visiting Petra on Wednesday.

The team's visit came amid reports that Israel expects to conclude a most favoured nation (MFN) trade agreement with Jordan within weeks.

The English-language Jerusalem Post quoted Zahor Peri, director of foreign trade at the industry and trade ministry, as saying that Israel had agreed to quicken the pace of negotiations on a simplified MFN accord at a meeting of the joint Trade and Economic Cooperation Committee in the northern Israeli town of Tiberias last week.

During that meeting, the Israeli side presented a draft MFN accord to the Jordanian negotiators, who are now expected to respond to it in two weeks, the Post said Tuesday.

Although the Oct. 26 Jordan-Israel peace treaty "provides for a free trade area between the two countries, Israel conceded to the more limited agreement proposed," the Post reported.

According to a source quoted by the Israeli paper, Israel wants to first to reach an accord in principle on a free trade area with Jordan, with details for its implementation to be negotiated later.

"However, the Kingdom does not want to commit itself now to a free trade area with Israel since it has no similar agreement with an Arab country," said the Post.

Jordan wants first to see how the trade relationship develops and what it could expect to gain from upgrading it, the source quoted by the paper said.

Under the peace treaty, Jordan and Israel are expected to finalise a trade agreement by May.

Mr. Gillerman, describing members of the delegation accompanying him as highly influential in formulating Israeli trade policies, said they would seek to incorporate in the proposed accord elements of what they saw as significant to a trade relationship with Jordan during their visit.

At the end of his two-day visit here, Grevil Ganner, who was on a tour of the region, said his trip was aimed at finding new ways and methods to accelerate the peace process and overcome difficulties facing the establishment of a new Middle East.

Mr. Ganner, who left for Damascus Tuesday, said His Majesty King Hussein's wise leadership has enabled Jordan to enter the peace process with full confidence in ensuring security, peace and prosperity for the people.

Interfax news agency said its correspondent in Grozny had reported that rebels were still keeping Russian troops well away from the palace.

Russian authorities have periodically said since the advance began that their troops had secured control of the building.

Interfax said the main theatre of fighting was near the railway station, 1.5 kilometres west of the palace. A second pocket was five kilometres to the north.

There was also word Tuesday on just how much of a ghost town Grozny has become. The International Committee of the Red Cross said in Geneva that 300,000 people — 75 per cent of the capital's population — had fled the city.

A Red Cross relief convoy carrying mainly medical supplies made it into the south of Chechnya on Tuesday, a Red Cross spokesman said.

Tuesday's Russian shelling appeared aimed at keeping Chechen forces away from some 60 Russian tanks and armoured personnel carriers trapped in the city after the failed ground offensive, Chechen fighters said.

Six Chechen fighters left the city carrying the bodies of two fallen comrades. "The fighting is intense, but the Russians have suffered heavier losses," said one soldier, Said Dubayev, 32.

As night fell three buildings were in flames.

## Patient fight ends in death in Fuheis

By Rana Husseini  
Special to the Jordan Times

**AMMAN** — A patient at Fuheis Hospital for Nervous Disorders Monday beat another patient to death, police reports said.

According to the report, the assailant used only his bare hands in the fight.

The victim was taken to Al Bashir Hospital but died a few hours later.

An official at the Fuheis hospital contacted by the Jordan Times Tuesday refused to comment on the incident and would not release any details.

After several attempts to contact any police official to elaborate on the matter, none was available Tuesday evening.

The report said that the

victim, identified only as A.M.H., 60, was struck in the head several times by his assailant.

According to the report, the assailant used only his bare hands in the fight.

The victim was taken to Al Bashir Hospital but died a few hours later.

An official at the Fuheis hospital contacted by the Jordan Times Tuesday refused to comment on the incident and would not release any details.

After several attempts to contact any police official to elaborate on the matter, none was available Tuesday evening.

French Ambassador to Jordan Bernard Bajot said last

## Cabinet approves EU office to coordinate regional projects

**AMMAN** (J.T.) — The Cabinet Tuesday approved a European Union (EU) request to establish in Amman a permanent office of a general secretariat to follow up on the work of regional development working groups.

The office will act as a liaison between the EU and the governments in the Middle East region.

Regional development issues were agreed to as part of the Jordan-Israel peace treaty, and the EU pledged to offer financial assistance and expertise for such development schemes.

The Council of Ministers also approved the hosting in Amman of a special team from the United Nations Compensation Fund which is due to arrive here by mid-January.

During the week-long visit, the team will hold talks with government officials on compensation for thousands of Jordanians who lost property and jobs in the Gulf states as

a result of the 1990-1991 Gulf crisis.

The Cabinet, which met under the chairmanship of Prime Minister Abdul Salam Majali, also approved the opening in Amman of an office for the Australian Meat and Livestock Corporation to promote sheep trade with Jordan.

Australian embassy sources said that nearly 600,000 heads of sheep will be imported by Jordan from Australia during 1995.

The Cabinet approved a request by a local company to cooperate with Jordan Television to boost television broadcasts in Zarqa, Irbid and Maan.

## Panel to examine collapse of bridge — mayor

By Rana Husseini  
Special to the Jordan Times

**AMMAN** — Amman Mayor Mamduh Abbadi said Tuesday that a committee was formed by the municipality to investigate the collapse of a bridge under construction near the Seventh Circle.

Dr. Abbadi told the Jordan Times that samples of cement, iron and other material were collected by committee engineers for examination.

"Until now, we don't know the cause of the collapse, but we have taken samples from the wreckage to determine the cause," Dr. Abbadi said.

The accident occurred at 6 p.m. when workers were pouring concrete on a section

of the bridge. One side of the bridge suddenly collapsed.

Several workers were injured in the incident, reports said. An engineer at the site said that most of the workers were released from hospital today.

According to Dr. Abbadi,

the completion of the JD 154,000 project will be delayed two weeks.

When completed, the bridge will connect the Abdoun area and the Queen Alia International Airport road with the Seventh Circle.

On the economic benefits of the peace process, Mr. Ganner said they would not be achieved overnight, but stressed that the region's problems will be solved gradually.

Mr. Ganner said the American role in the peace process is vital and strategic, and the European role complements the American role.

He added that the United States has made strenuous efforts to reach the Camp David accord between Israel and Egypt, as well as the other agreements between Israel and both the Palestinians and Jordan.

He said he hoped that peace will be achieved gradually in the region.

Mr. Ganner will return to Amman from Damascus Wednesday en route to the West Bank.

## Ferry company reports \$9m profit

**AQABA** (Petra) — The Arab Maritime Bridge Company (AMBC) Tuesday reported a \$9 million profit for 1994 and announced plans for expansion.

The AMBC, owned by Egypt, Jordan and Iraq was established in 1985 with a \$6 million capital. The company owns three ferry boats which commute between the ports of Nweibeh in Sinai and Aqaba in Jordan.

Mr. Ganner said the American role in the peace process is vital and strategic, and the European role complements the American role.

He added that the United States has made strenuous efforts to reach the Camp David accord between Israel and Egypt, as well as the other agreements between Israel and both the Palestinians and Jordan.

He said he hoped that peace will be achieved gradually in the region.

Mr. Ganner will return to Amman from Damascus Wednesday en route to the West Bank.

made 1,900 trips between the two ports, transporting 1,348,662 passengers and 300,408 tonnes of luggage.

He said the company also transported 79,344 vehicles which included small cars, buses and trucks.

The AMBC recently added a small vessel to its fleet, raising the total daily capacity to 7,500 passengers. Mr. Dalabah said.

This year, the company plans to operate two speed boats to transport passengers

between Nweibeh and Aqaba in one hour rather than the three hours required by ferry. Mr. Dalabah said, adding that the two vessels have a combined capacity of 500 passengers.

Referring to installations, Mr. Dalabah said the company has started building a 4,000-square-metre complex in Aqaba to serve as a waiting area for vehicles and their luggage.

He said the project was expected to cost JD\$5 million.

**OUR KNIVES AND FORKS ARE TIED RIGHT NOW**

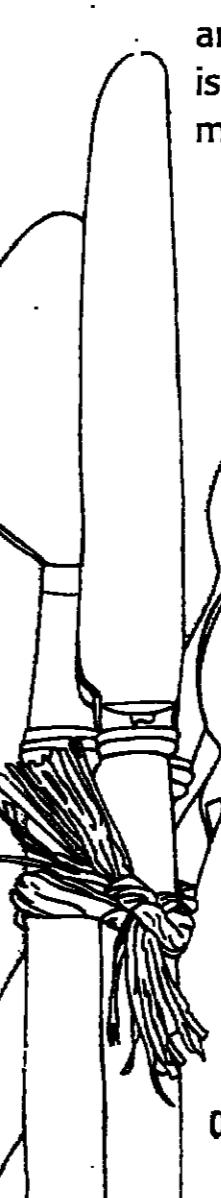
**Smart'z Restaurant announces that this is only a temporary measure!**

**Beginning January 4, 1995, Smart'z will be tied up**

**with a renovation**

**venture that is full of promise...**

**Mark your calendar for a great opening after Ramadan!**



## Senate approves budget

(Continued from page 1) training with special focus on training young people in maintenance and production work.

He said that the third element concerns the reduction of the role of the public sector in favour of the private sector. The public sector is currently employing 55 per cent of the total Jordanian workforce but it is now up to the private sector to help the government contain the rate of unemployment.

The prime minister said the government was determined to give a greater role in handling the economy to the private sector and had started steps towards achieving that objective.

The fourth element of concern to the government is ending the division of Jordan into rural and urban and badia regions. Dr. Majali said the government was determined to remove the differences and gaps among these regions by increasing and improving the quality of services to the rural and badia regions which would eventually result in the redistribution of population.

## Stage set for change

(Continued from page 1)

On the foreign policy level, the sources expected that the new government, having taken over from Dr. Majali who had led the country into peace talks as chief negotiator and concluded the task by signing the peace treaty with Israel, will now assume the new task of defining the country's relations with Arab countries, and paramount among them the Palestinian leadership.

On the foreign policy level, the sources expected that the new government, having taken over from Dr. Majali who had led the country into peace talks as chief negotiator and concluded the task by signing the peace treaty with Israel, will now assume the new task of defining the country's relations with Arab countries, and paramount among them the Palestinian leadership.

## WHAT'S GOING ON

- ★ Film entitled "Una Novia Para David" at Instituto Cervantes (the Spanish Cultural Centre) at 5:00 p.m.
- ★ Concert entitled "Towards Humanity" by British Flutist Wissam Boustany and pianist Amira Fouad at the Royal Cultural Centre at 8:00 a.m.
- ★ Film entitled "On Her Majesty's Secret Service" at the British Council at 7:00 p.m.
- ★ Exhibition of oil paintings by Mahmoud Massa at the Phoenix Gallery for Culture and Art.
- ★ Exhibition of works by Mahmud Obaidi at Darat Al Funun. Also showing an exhibition of portraits by Fairouz Zeid and the exhibition of contemporary Arab artists.
- ★ Exhibition of paintings by Ismail and Tamam Shammout at Abdul Hameed Shoman Foundation.

## Cambodian rebels abandon base

PHNOM PENH (Agencies)

— Khmer Rouge guerrillas abandoned a stronghold in northwest Cambodia in the face of advancing government forces backed by hundreds of Khmer Rouge defectors, the governor of Siem Reap province said Tuesday. "We completely took Phnom Kulen yesterday without fighting," Ton Chay told Reuters Tuesday.

A hundred Khmer Rouge fighters had been guarding the stronghold. "They just abandoned the base once they knew we had advanced against them," the governor said.

Phnom Kulen lies 60 kilometres north of Siem Reap town, the provincial capital, and is best known as the quarry for the sandstone used to build the 12th-century Angkor group of temples.

A provincial police commissioner, Major-General Chea Sopheap, told Reuters on the telephone that some of the Khmer Rouge soldiers who had been based at Phnom Kulen in the past had defected to the government while others had fled to their bases along the border with Thailand.

He described the attack as "a great victory for the government army as the base was taken without bloodshed."

The Khmer Rouge, which is held responsible for the deaths of a million Cambodians during their reign of terror from 1975 to 1979,

continue to wage a low-level guerrilla war against the Cambodian government.

Meanwhile, Khmer Rouge guerrillas shot dead a militiaman and seven train passengers near Phnom Penh in their second railway ambush in little more than six months, officials and survivors said Tuesday.

The Khmer Rouge killed eight people, including four women, and wounded thirty-six, state railway director Pick Kimsreang told AFP.

"They ambushed the train in Samaki Meanchey district, Kompong Chhnang province Monday afternoon," he said, referring to an area around 60 kilometres northwest of the capital.

The guerrillas stopped the train by blowing up the railway tracks, then opened fire on the carriages with machine guns and B-40 rockets, said the deputy commander of the train militia, who survived the attack.

First the Khmer Rouge exploded five mines on the track then they opened fire. Our militia retreated because we only had 20 men but they had about sixty," Chum Pum said, adding his brother was the sole militiaman killed.

The seven other victims of the attack, including the four women, were civilians. One other militiaman was wounded and the other casualties were civilians, Chum Pum said.

The ambushed train was laden with peasants riding to Thailand.

Phnom Penh to sell farm produce, Chum Pum said.

"After the raid, the guerrillas started to rob things from the passengers," Chum Pum said, saying that most of the attackers were wearing Khmer Rouge uniforms.

Railway officials said the train was seriously damaged in the attack and several coaches were derailed.

Cambodia's ancient and decrepit railway system, with its slow-moving trains, is a frequent target for the Khmer Rouge and rural bandits. Passengers say the 20 or so train militiamen offer little protection.

Most of the victims of train ambushes are ordinary Cambodian citizens, some of whom may be kidnapped, as well as robbed, and only released if their relatives pay a ransom of some kind.

Government soldiers arrived at the scene of Monday's train ambush after the Khmer Rouge had left, another survivor told AFP, saying he did not understand why the soldiers took so long to show up.

"I don't know why the government troops didn't come to help us in time, because the attack took place close to the government base," he said.

On July 26 Khmer Rouge guerrillas ambushed the southern-bound train from Phnom Penh to Sihanoukville, killing 13 passengers and marching off several others, including three Westerners, to their deaths several months later in the jungle.

Some government officials admitted that in the July attack the government police supposedly guarding the track may have been acting with the Khmer Rouge ambushed, and conveniently ignored the ambush in exchange for a share of the spoils.

In a separate development, Thai Prime Minister Chuan Leekpai said Tuesday that he would personally decide whether Cambodian General Sin Song should be returned to Phnom Penh, where he faces trial for an abortive coup bid last July.

Speaking after the weekly cabinet meeting, which the Thai press had said would decide whether to extradite Sin Song or deport him to a third country, Mr. Chuan said he expected to make a decision within the week.

Analysts generally expected Thailand would refuse Cambodia's request to return the fugitive general to Phnom Penh, where he was sentenced in absentia in October to 20 years in prison.

The Thai Foreign Ministry said earlier it had concluded, based on documents provided by Phnom Penh, that Sin Song was wanted on a political rather than a criminal charge and that he should thus not be extradited.

After escaping from custody prior to the trial, Sin Song turned up in Thailand



IGLOO HOTEL: Local workers pile-up which includes a bar-restaurant, a sauna and snow and ice in the northern Swedish town of Jukkasjärvi in this file picture in order to who do not like to sleep on iceblocks — is build this year's "Igloo-Hotel," which is an annual attraction in this remote spot naturally in late April, when the sun takes care of the hotel's demolition and recycling (AFP opening of the 28-room "Igloo-Hotel" — photo)

## Sri Lanka, Tigers agree to halt fighting

COLOMBO (Agencies) — The Sri Lankan government and Tamil Tiger rebels have agreed on a cessation of hostilities, a top official who attended peace talks Tuesday announced here.

Kusumudu Balapatabendi, the leader of the government peace mission said it was now up to President Chandrika Kumaratunga to decide on a date to give effect to the agreement.

The talks were very cordial and very satisfactory," he said arriving here after talks with the separatist Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam (LTTE) in the rebel-held northern town of Jaffna.

Mr. Balapatabendi, who is

also Mrs. Kumaratunga's secretary, said that the LTTE freed four police prisoners to mark the resumption of peace talks Tuesday. The main item on the agenda was the "cessation of hostilities."

He said the LTTE supreme Velumillai Prabhakaran had been "so happy" with the talks that he decided to free four policemen instead of the two they had originally planned.

The five-member government team included an army brigadier and a navy captain.

The government delegation is now expected to brief Mrs. Kumaratunga who is likely to announce the date of the ceasefire in her scheduled

address to parliament Friday. The talks were postponed after the Tigers were suspected of involvement in the Oct. 24 killing of opposition presidential candidate Gamini Dissanayake.

An outburst of attacks on army camps by rebels last month and the shooting Saturday of a Tamil politician opposed to the rebels also made it harder to resume the talks, the source said.

Karavai Kandasamy, general-secretary of the People's Liberation Organisation of Tamil Eelam, a former Tamil separatist militia, was shot in the neck by a gunman at his home. His party blamed the

## 4 Russian troops killed in Tajik attack

MOSCOW (R) — Four Russian soldiers were killed in the former Soviet Republic of Tajikistan Monday when their armoured car was blown up by rebels firing from across the border in Afghanistan, Interfax News Agency said.

These people are shameless. They stripped the dead of their "wallets," a police officer said in an interview.

Echague Mayor Fernando Babaran, quoting witnesses, said the bus smashed through the left side of the bridge before dawn as the driver raced another bus travelling the same route.

The driver was killed in the crash and there was no trace of the other bus, he said.

More than 30 passengers were injured when the bus crashed through the bridge railing and plunged into a deep ravine outside Echague, 250 kilometres north of the capital.

One 13-year-old survivor said he was awake when the accident occurred before dawn.

"I saw the bus jump from the bridge so I just held on tightly to my seat," Joseph Quesada said.

"Then I saw the bus conductor remove the door and that's how we got out. There was a lot of blood. A lot of dead people. There were also many pinned down by the bus. They were all crying," he said.

Quesada, his left eye injured in the crash, said he was still looking for his mother, who was with him on the bus.

There were 58 people aboard the bus bound for Tuguegarao City when it left Manila, but police said passengers picked up along the way could have swelled the number to more than 60.

Russia has 25,000 troops in Tajikistan, propping up the government against rebels, who fled after losing a civil war in 1992.

Earlier reports from the Tajik capital Dushanbe said six Russian servicemen had died over the New Year after drinking champagne probably spiked with cyanide.

This was the latest in a series of killings of Russian soldiers in the republic.

A senior Russian officer was killed in Dushanbe on New Year's Eve. A military source said at the weekend that Lieutenant-Colonel Vladimir Dolmatov, 37, was shot in the head.

President Imamali Rahmonov said in a New Year address that illegal weapons would be confiscated and illegal armed groups disbanded to ease a threat of military conflict in Tajikistan.

## Former premier publicly reveals Australia's worst kept secret

SYDNEY (AFP) — Bob Hawke, Australia's second longest-serving prime minister during what he termed "a love affair with the Australian people," has publicly revealed another love affair — with his biographer Blanche D'Alpuget.

Looking like a young couple much in love, the 65-year-old former Labour leader was pictured on the front pages of most newspapers here Tuesday strolling on a beach, arm-in-arm with the glamorous, blonde 51-year-old writer.

The posed photographs, in which they romantically hold hands and look into each other's eyes, provided public confirmation of a long-rumoured relationship just a month after Mr. Hawke announced he and his wife Hazel were separating after 38 years of marriage.

They were characteristics to which he subsequently owned up in a number of celebrated tearful interviews.

But he stopped drinking in time for the March 1983 election which swept him to power and he went on to win a record four terms of office until being ousted in a party room coup by his former treasurer Paul Keating in December 1991.

Asked about Mr. Hawke's fondness for women during a

1989 interview, Ms. D'Alpuget said: "I think for womanising, as far as I know, is testosterone."

She also helped Mr. Hawke write his own controversial autobiography, published last year, in which he alienated most of his former Labour colleagues with what was considered gratuitous criticism of Mr. Keating.

"The success of the operation was possible thanks to the quick-witted emergency-room doctor in Zambrów who placed the severed genitals in a jar full of saline solution and packed it in ice," Prof. D'Alpuget said.

Asked whether the organ would resume all its normal functions, he replied: "It's still too early to tell." The television did not say why he had mutilated himself.

## Tussle over Nizam jewels resolved

NEW DELHI (AFP) — A two-decade-long tussle over the jewellery owned by a former Indian royal family has come to an end with the government agreeing to buy the collection for \$72 million, a newspaper reported. The government has until Jan. 16 to purchase the 173 pieces known as the Nizam jewels, owned by the former Nizam of Hyderabad, reputed in his lifetime to be the world's richest man, the Hindustan Times said. The government and the heirs of the former Muslim ruler of Hyderabad state have been at loggerheads over the value of the jewels. The Nizam's heirs offered in 1972 to sell the jewellery to the government but they had been unable to fix a price on the collection, which includes the Jacob diamond, items from Cartier and necklaces belonging to Napoleon's Josephine. India's princely states were abolished following independence in 1947.

## Woman in miraculous train near-miss outside Lourdes

LOURDES, France (AFP) — A French motorist was thanking the heavens Monday after escaping unharmed when her car was crushed by a high-speed TGV train as she was on her way to Lourdes. The 24-year-old woman was driving to the pilgrimage town in southwestern France from nearby Tarbes early Sunday, after spending New Year's Eve with friends, when she got stuck on a level crossing. Helped by a passing motorist she tried in vain to free the vehicle. The pair were still struggling with the dilemma when, minutes later, the Tarbes-Lourdes express roared into view at 110 kmh (70 mph). The woman was left to contemplate her empty car for some 100 metres along the track, crashing it before coming to a stop.

## Polish surgeon successfully re-attaches organ

WARSAW (R) — Surgeons in northeastern Poland have successfully re-attached the penis and testicles of a young man who had cut them off, state television said. "The patient, a 29-year-old man from the town of Zambrów, who had cut off his own penis and testicles — both his penis and testicles — was rushed to the Bielsk Medical Academy where we decided to operate immediately," Professor Józef Dzarewicz, the chief surgeon, said on television.

"The success of the operation was possible thanks to the quick-witted emergency-room doctor in Zambrów who placed the severed genitals in a jar full of saline solution and packed it in ice," Prof. Dzarewicz said.

Asked whether the organ would resume all its normal functions, he replied: "It's still too early to tell." The television did not say why he had mutilated himself.

## Experts try to save trapped Vanuatu dolphin

SYDNEY (R) — Marine experts and hundreds of volunteer helpers are racing against time in the tiny South Pacific island nation of Vanuatu to rescue 27 dolphins trapped and starving to death in a shallow lagoon. One young dolphin died Tuesday afternoon as two Australian marine experts, backed by an enthusiastic band of local islanders and tourists, failed to herd the dolphins out of the lagoon using a human chain, a volunteer helper told Reuters by telephone from a nearby resort.

"The whole town has turned out today to try to help them," said Lynne Cooper, co-manager of the Eriko Island resort, which sits on a small island in the middle of the lagoon, near the Vanuatu capital, Port Vila.

"Anybody who had snorkeled and fins... were linking their hands in a big human chain to drive them out, but they just would not go," she said. Earlier in the day, the two dolphin experts brought in by the Vanuatu government from Australia's Sea World Marine Park tried to free the dolphins by using a "curtain of sound," Sea World spokesman David Luxton told Reuters. The attempt involved 13 boats and 14 scuba divers.

## Clinton takes steps on anti-abortion violence

LITTLE ROCK, Arkansas (R) — President Bill Clinton Monday condemned violence against abortion clinics and ordered the U.S. Justice Department to set up a task force on clinic protection.

In a statement issued at the start of a brief vacation to visit friends and family back home in Little Rock, Mr. Clinton took care to note that people on both sides of the issue have "deeply felt beliefs," most of which are expressed peacefully.

Two people were killed and five injured at two abortion clinics near Boston last Friday, bringing to five the number of people shot to death in anti-abortion violence in less than two years.

A suspect, John Salvi, 22, has been detained in connection with the Boston slayings and a shooting incident at a separate clinic in Norfolk, Virginia over the New Year's weekend.

He was believed responsible for the deaths of thousands of pro-democracy Haitians in the past three decades.

Clinton said: "I applaud Americans of conscience who differ in their convictions on abortion but who stand united in their opposition to violence."

But he added: "A continued vigorous debate over abortion is proper. Violence against those who hold differing opinions is not."

Mr. Clinton said he had instructed Attorney General Janet Reno to head a task force of state, local and federal law enforcement officials to develop plans for clinic security. He also said the U.S. marshals would work with clinics so they would know what steps to take in case of potential violence.

"Today our commitment to a moratorium on all protests at abortion clinics to give both sides time to cool off and rethink their positions."

On Sunday incoming Senate majority leader Bob Dole, a Kansas Republican,

also called for more federal action to stop the violence, including the possibility of using more federal marshals to protect vulnerable clinics.

"Now, whether we can protect every clinic in America is probably very highly questionable, but I think at the least, you know, let's take a look. Let's see what — if there's anything — else we can do to stop the violence," Sen. Dole said on CBS' *Face the Nation*.

Abortion rights activists last week accused federal law enforcement authorities of doing too little to control extremists who are threatening clinics, and stalking and harassing clinic doctors and other personnel. They demanded that the FBI and justice officials treat the violent strains of the anti-abortion movement as seriously as they would treat the Ku Klux Klan or a foreign terrorist group.

## Aristide calls for peace, more food

PORTE-AU-PRINCE (R) —

In a speech marking the annual day of remembrance for heroes of the Haitian revolution, President Jean-Bertrand Aristide pleaded for peace Monday and called on his people to grow more food.

In the speech Mr. Aristide, who was ousted in a September 1991 coup and returned to power last October, tried to address the concerns of soldiers who will be out of work after a planned reduction in the Haitian Armed Forces.

He also outlined plans to build roads and other projects to create jobs and bolster Haiti's sagging economy.

"All Haitians must live in peace and liberty and not in fear. You can say what you want. No more living in hiding," Mr. Aristide said.

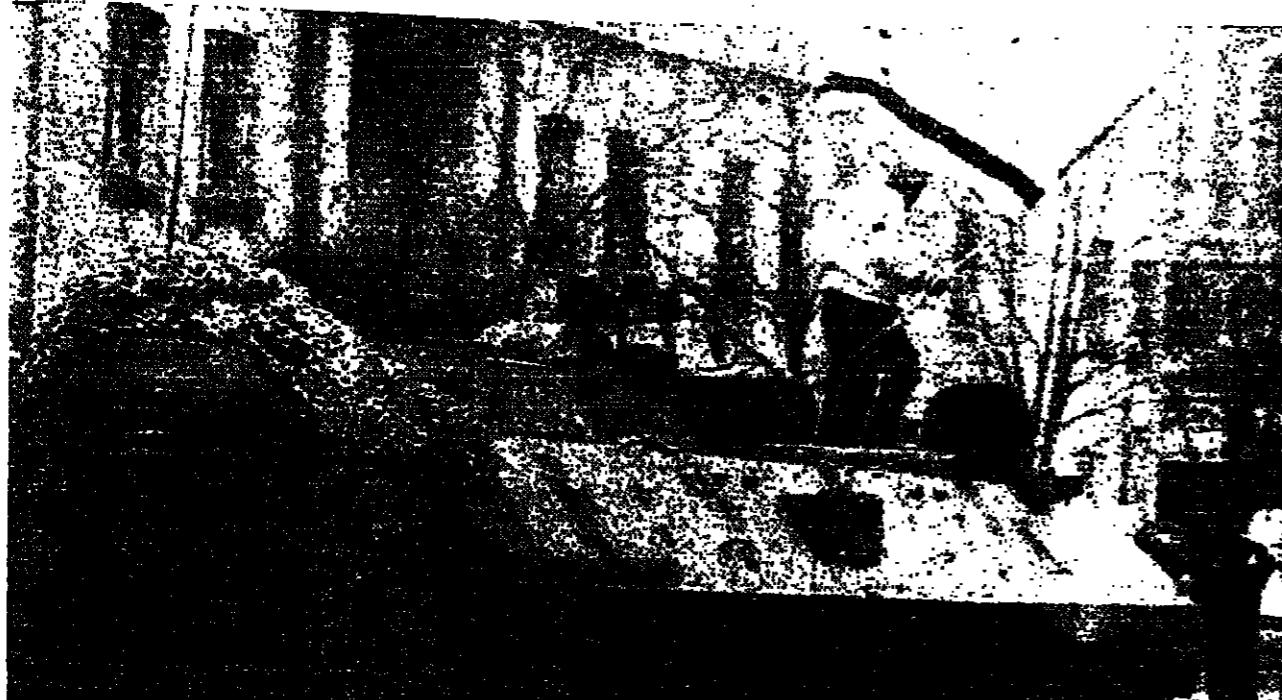
"Anymore, there is work for you in the public works, health, or agriculture ministries. You don't need to be afraid."

handicapped, scholarships for students, street cleaning, rural road development and urban housing.

It was not immediately clear how Haiti, the poorest country in the Western hemisphere, would pay for the projects.

Willy Paul, a spokesman for the anti-Aristide paramilitary group FRAPH, was unimpressed as he listened to the broadcast.

Speaking from his home in Tabaré, outside Port-Au-Prince, Mr. Aristide stressed the need for agricultural development.



A Chechen volunteer holding the national flag walks past a Russian APC captured in Grozny, during the battle for the control of the capital of the breakaway Republic of Chechnya.

## Chechenya throws Russian army into sharp relief

MOSCOW (AFP) — The lack of precision by Russian bombers in their attacks on the secessionist republic of Chechnya and the problems experienced by ground troops there fighting a vastly under-equipped enemy have thrown into sharp relief the current poor state of the Russian military machine.

The official Rossiskie Vesti journal has admitted that the "precision of bombardments is more or less (only) metres, causing heavy losses and pointless destruction in the target area," continuing reports from inside the war theatre.

Inhabitants of the Chechen capital Grozny have seen nothing of the "laser-guided bombs which practically rule out any civilian victims," earlier promised by Russian officers.

The performance of Russian troops since they want into Chechenya three weeks ago have proved the country's former all-powerful

Chechen sources claim to have routed Russian forces from Grozny while the Russian government said its troops continue to control a large part of the city (AFP photo)

military machine is no longer what it was.

In the Red Army's glory days, the whole of the Soviet economy was tuned to defence interests, with the military sector accounting for 90 per cent of the national economy and defence expenditure accounting for 40 per cent of gross national product (GNP).

But times have changed since the Soviet Union was disbanded in 1991 and the economic crisis has forced the role of the defence sector to be scaled down.

That has led to a shrinking of finance for the army since 1992, while the overall defence budget — once equal to that of the United States — is now a mere five per cent of the U.S. equivalent.

As a consequence, the army scrapped innovation programmes and has virtually given up even updating its equipment, while hardware replacements shrank to the

extent the army placed an order for just one solitary tank in 1991, and only 30 per cent of weapons provided for the army meet modern technological standards.

A government commission revealed in October that "the Russian armaments system as regards reconnaissance, data collection, the identification and destruction of targets now lags far behind that of its foreign partners."

In addition, research centres are in crisis, and units charged with testing new technology have virtually disappeared, so that innovations never reach the production stage.

Moreover, Geofisika, a huge aviation technology research centre in the Soviet era is virtually bankrupt," Ms. Leyte says. Its most qualified workers have left the centre which the government owes billions of roubles for completed orders.

With regard to the conventional arms sector, "almost 500 firms have completely or partially shut down production" in recent months, according to the Technical Commission's report.

The military-industrial complex has kept its worn-out production lines even though they were economically deficient and technically obsolete," the report said.

Beaten back by inexperienced Chechen volunteers, the Russian army will if nothing else have proved its case for needing an injection of capital investment.

"The necessary resources will be forthcoming and we will then once again have the best army in the world in the tradition of the great Russian military superpower," Russian Security Council Secretary Oleg Lobov insisted in an interview published on Dec. 30 by the *Krasnaya Zvezda* army journal.

According to journalist Tatiana Leyte, "the country is now producing only six per



Russian soldiers prepare their weapons at a check point on the border between Chechenya and Dagestan (AFP photo)

## Police: British horror suspect committed suicide

LONDON (R) — Frederick West, the suspected serial killer at the centre of Britain's notorious "house of horrors" case, hanged himself, a police post-mortem examination confirmed Tuesday.

Mr. West, accused of murdering 12 young women and girls, was found dead in his prison cell Sunday.

Villagers in the idyllic rural backwater of Much Marcle, where Mr. West once lived, do not want him to be buried there alongside his mother and father in the local graveyard.

"He has taken his secrets

to the grave and we don't want those secrets buried here. It would become a macabre tourist attraction," said one resident of the west of England village.

Police said the case against Rosemary West "remained active" but her lawyer said she should be released for lack of evidence.

Leo Goatley said the case against Rosemary West was flimsy. He claimed Frederick had made a candid admission in a police interview and had said his wife was innocent of complicity.

After lurid coverage of Frederick West's case was splashed across several pages of British tabloid newspapers

ers, lawyers questioned whether it was now possible for Rosemary West to be guaranteed a fair trial.

Frederick West's lawyer, Tony Miles, said the coverage had shocked him.

"I am appalled by the coverage in some of the tabloids. I think it just raises fundamental issues as to the responsibility of the press in this country in relation to a case of this kind," he said.

Sir Louis Blom-Cooper, a former chairman of the Press Council media watchdog, said: "There will be great difficulty, if not impossibility, in her getting a fair trial."

Police officers said the

signed exits, further contributing to the high death toll since in several major fires many of the dead were asphyxiated by poisonous smoke from flaming materials, it said.

In November, 231 people died in a fire at a dance hall in northeastern Liaoning province that was sparked by a burning newspaper tossed under a sofa.

Many of the dead suffocated because of noxious fumes from burning decorations and were unable to flee because there was only a single exit reached along a narrow, winding passage.

The mayor of the town of Fuxin was dismissed, 13 others punished and two managers of the hall arrested.

A nationwide construction spree in which builders ignored fire safety precautions in favour of cost-cutting and speed was partly to blame for the heavy toll, it said.

Major and disastrous fires soared by 28.2 compared with 1993, the radio said.

One-quarter of the deaths along with a fourth of all fires were sparked in places of

fighting equipment as well as a dearth of laws and lax enforcement of fire prevention regulations.

He warned that many tall buildings, underground projects, oil and petrochemical facilities and public places were still fire hazards, the newspaper said.

A fire that swept through a ballroom in the central Chinese city of Nanjing, killing two people, seriously injuring four and destroying the building at the weekend occurred after local Fire Department warnings that the dance hall was unsafe, state radio said.

A fire in November in the northeastern city of Jilin killed two people in a disco and spread to the provincial museum next door, destroying the 70-million-year-old fossil of an 11-metre-long dinosaur and several other rare items.

The museum had rented out space to the disco, which failed to take adequate fire precautions. Eighteen officials, including the city mayor, have been punished for

ageing and inadequate fire

## 40,000 fires killed 2,600 people in China in 1994

BEIJING (R) — Some 40,000 fires killed more than 2,600 people and injured 4,000 in China in 1994 in the deadliest year on record, and Beijing Tuesday promised tough action in 1995 to prevent such disasters.

"Fire disasters in 1994 were particularly serious," state radio said in a year-end report.

The number of fires and the death and injury toll did not include forest fires, it said.

Officials said the year was the deadliest on record and promised implementation of tougher regulations in 1995 with offenders to face stiff punishment.

Property losses for 1994 were estimated at a record 1.2 billion yuan (\$141 million), the radio said. Most of the fires were in factories but fires in entertainment places increased rapidly, it said.

Major and disastrous fires soared by 28.2 compared with 1993, the radio said.

One-quarter of the deaths along with a fourth of all fires were sparked in places of

## U.N. reports serious clashes around Bosnia town

SARAJEVO (AFP) — Serious clashes erupted around the northwestern Bosnia town of Velika Kladusa Tuesday despite a comprehensive ceasefire agreed by the warring factions over the weekend, the United Nations reported.

The truce took effect at 1100 GMT Sunday.

U.N. negotiators have since been pressing Serbs

based in the Krajina region of Croatia to respect the cessation of hostilities.

"It's a little disturbing because there is no particular reason for the firework in military activity," he said.

The source of the firing and its effects were not immediately clear.

Major Gourmelon added that U.N. officials were trying to determine if the violence was continuing in the region, where forces loyal to dissident Muslim leader Fikret Abdic — backed by rebel Serbs from neighbouring

Croatia — had been confronting mainly Muslim government troops.

Mr. Abdic Saturday signed an agreement with local Un

ited Nations military authorities to respect a global four-month truce in Bosnia, which was formally accepted the same day by government and rebel Bosnian Serb leaders.

The truce took effect at 1100 GMT Sunday.

U.N. negotiators have since been pressing Serbs

based in the Krajina region of Croatia to respect the cessation of hostilities.

Around Sarajevo meanwhile Bosnian government troops began pulling out of strategic territory above the capital in accordance with the overall truce and are expected to complete the operation by mid-day Wednesday, an army spokesman announced.

U.N. military authorities are then scheduled to inspect the area, part of a demilitarized zone near Krupac on Mount Igman south of here.

The withdrawal would represent the first tangible shift in confrontation lines under the cessation of hostilities, which calls notably for a separation of forces and

eventually the interpositioning of United Nations troops between opposing armies.

Agreement on the withdrawal came Monday in a U.N.-chaired meeting at Sarajevo Airport of Bosnian government and Serb officers.

The mainly-Muslim Bosnian army incurred the wrath of the United Nations here in October when it launched an offensive against Serb units on Mount Igman and entered territory that had been declared a demilitarized zone in August 1993.

The army agreed to pull back but a Bosnian military spokesman said Tuesday that withdrawal is conditional on U.N. monitoring of the Hrasnica-Igman Road, which is located to the east of Krupac and is the only route connecting Sarajevo with the rest of government-controlled Bosnia.

U.N. officials Monday said they hoped to be able to deploy between confrontation lines throughout Bosnia

by the end of January.

Sarajevo Airport, a vital aid gateway for the Bosnian capital's 380,000 people, was reopened Tuesday three days after shutting down when an aircraft skidded off the runway, a U.N. spokesman said.

The U.N. expected to bring in a total of 28 humanitarian and military resupply flights Tuesday.

In Paris, the Defence Ministry said French soldiers

had worked since Saturday to clear and repair the runway to allow the quick resumption of relief flights.

None of the 11 passengers and crew aboard a U.N. Ilyushin 76 cargo plane were hurt when it smashed into a mud bank next to the runway after landing in snowy weather Saturday. Work on removing the plane was continuing Tuesday.

Since the warring parties agreed to a new four-month ceasefire which came into effect on Jan. 1, life in Sarajevo has shown signs of improvement.

## Berlusconi suffers new setback in opinion poll

ROME (R) — A new opinion poll showed most Italians do not want Silvio Berlusconi to become prime minister but most political commentators consider him a long shot.

The same poll asked Italians to rate the performance of Mr. Berlusconi, Mr. Fini and President Oscar Luigi Scalfaro on a scale of one to 10. They gave Mr. Berlusconi 5.4 as opposed to 6.5 for Mr. Scalfaro and 6.1 for Mr. Fini.

Mr. Fini, whose National Alliance is part of Mr. Berlusconi's coalition, began outstripping the prime minister in opinion polls last October.

Members of the coalition, which collapsed last month when the Northern League withdrew, met the Northern League to discuss strategy ahead of a session Wednesday with President Scalfaro, now in a second round of talks to end the crisis.

Premiers are now named by the president.

Judge Di Pietro, who resigned last month complaining of political interference in corruption probes, has been

joined by Mr. Scalfaro in speculation that Mr. Scalfaro could give

the mandate to Mr. Berlusconi's Treasury Minister, Lamberto Dini, a former director-general of the Bank of Italy and an internationally respected bureaucrat.

The candidacy of Mr. Dini, who has no direct party affiliation, was floated Monday by Defence Minister Cesare Previti, coordinator of Mr. Berlusconi's Forza Italia party and a close side of the outgoing prime minister.

Massimo D'Alema, head of the opposition Democratic Party of the Left (PDS), has indicated his group could support Mr. Dini or someone from Forza Italia as interim prime minister if there was agreement that he would lead a broad-based government.

Going into the meeting with Mr. Berlusconi, Mr. Fini said his group still wanted elections at the end of March.

But Alberto Michelini,

"belongs to a small centre grouping that supports the coalition, and coalition members might agree to elections later than March if the next prime minister was someone who represented Forza Italia.

## Indian constitutional crisis looms over poll order

NEW DELHI (R) — India is locked in a constitutional wrangle over a tough-talking election commissioner's threat to cancel polls in five states unless millions of voters are given identity cards.

Chief Election Commissioner T.N. Seshan has ordered the states to print photo identity cards for the more than 100 million voters due to elect state assemblies starting next month. Results were set to be announced in March.

While the polls have no direct bearing on the federal government, they are crucial for Prime Minister P.V. Narasimha Rao's ruling Congress Party, which suffered embarrassing losses in three of four states that held polls late last year.

Frederick West's lawyer, Tony Miles, said the coverage had shocked him.

"I am appalled by the coverage in some of the tabloids. I think it just raises fundamental issues as to the responsibility of the press in this country in relation to a case of this kind," he said.

Sir Louis Blom-Cooper, a former chairman of the Press Council media watchdog, said: "There will be great difficulty, if not impossibility, in her getting a fair trial."

Police officers said the

spending.

One of the states, Bihar, is badly behind schedule and appears unlikely to meet the identity-card deadline. As of Jan. 1, cards had been issued to no more than 450,000 voters in Bihar of a total electorate of 58 million.

On Tuesday, Mr. Seshan gave Bihar some breathing room, extending a deadline for it to print the cards by six weeks to February 28. But he said that was the only extension Bihar would get.

The other states, Arunachal Pradesh, Gujarat, Maharashtra and Orissa, are further advanced in the labourious and costly process, but by no means guaranteed to meet Mr. Seshan's demand.

If Mr. Seshan's order is central to his controversial campaign to clean up Indian elections. To the chagrin of many party leaders, he has also curbed political advertising and capped candidates

at 50 per cent.

Mr. Seshan's order is central to his controversial campaign to clean up Indian elections. To the chagrin of many party leaders, he has also curbed political advertising and capped candidates

at 50 per cent.

Meanwhile many South

Koreans regard the United States as the country most likely to help unify Korea and favour a continued presence of U.S. troops in the South, according to a poll published Tuesday.

At the same time, Japan topped the list of potential opponents to the unification of Korea, with 81.6 per cent of those questioned believing that the former colonial ruler would be against such a move.

The president died on July 8 last year.

Meanwhile many South

Koreans regard the United States as the country most likely to help unify Korea and favour a continued presence of U.S. troops in the South, according to a poll published Tuesday.



# Iraq's innocents suffer the loss of childhood

During the Gulf conflict, most children in Baghdad thought they would not live to grow up. Sanctions are making it hard to forget the trauma of war.

— Felicity Arbuthnot reports

AS CHRISTMAS and new year are celebrated in Iraq, children there no longer await such highlights in the calendar. Surviving under what is arguably the most draconian embargo in modern times, they can expect to celebrate birthday parties either; food is minimal and there is no money for gifts.

When Professor Magne Raundalen, the world-renowned child psychologist and veteran observer of children's terror in almost every war zone in the world, travelled to Iraq with the International Harvard Study Team to report on the mental health of the children to UNICEF after the Gulf war, he said he found "the most traumatised child population" he had ever encountered.

Prof. Raundalen's studies show what he describes as a unique phenomenon: trauma which could usually be expected to lessen with time is intensifying because of the climate of hunger and deprivation. Iraqi children have given up playing games, because the games remind them of dead playmates. Studies have shown that around 80 per cent of children lost friends or siblings in the conflict.

"These children are more traumatised than those who have witnessed the murder of a parent, or those who survived the ferry Herald of Free Enterprise disaster," said Prof. Raundalen, who is the director of the Centre for Crisis Psychology in Bergen in Norway.

At the time of the Gulf war, in the middle-class residential area of the Al Ameriyah shelter, 84 per cent of children thought they would lose their family. Almost the same percentage thought they would not grow up.

According to Prof. Raundalen, these children are "trapped within their trauma." They are unable to confide in their parents because they know that when it came to protecting them from bombs and mis-



Iraqi children watch a civilian building in southern Iraq hit by an allied air raid (AFP photo)

sies, adults were as helpless as children.

Rayad, aged 10, said he was tried to lay his own ghosts to rest.

"If I see anything burning, immediately I remember the shelter. I went to see the shelter and I turned my face and I wanted to walk away, and I wasn't looking and a car bumped me, and I fell on my face."

Recently I walked the few yards from the horror of the shelter at Al Ameriyah. Those on the top level were burned alive, those on the bottom, boiled when the vast water tanks burst.

It was mid-morning. br. and children's voice rang out; the sound of small running feet reverberated in there were colourful mounds of flowers, children and animals on the painted

outer walls of the building. Had one not known about the bombing, it appeared very normal.

Inside, the headteacher related how 12-year-old Naisam lost 11 members of his family and extended family in the shelter. Only he and his mother remained. Another child had lost his brother; a teacher had lost her mother, two sisters and two brothers. Samira, another teacher, smiled out from the school register. She died in the shelter with four of her children.

The school at Al Ameriyah is working closely with a trauma centre, the first of its kind in Iraq, which has been set up by Prof. Raundalen and his colleagues. I met some of the children and heard their stories from Saana Jezrawi, the psychologist in charge.

"It is very difficult, we all have this injury inside us. But we have to be strong for the children," the head said.

"They are not right. His father was a soldier who was killed in the Gulf war. Unlike many, his body was

recovered and brought home to be buried. Ali was present at the funeral and the graveyard is near his home. Every day for two years Ali ran to the grave and tried to dig it up, saying "it's all right, daddy, you can come out now, the men who put you here have gone away."

Among the items vetoed by the U.N. sanctions committee, are consignments of ping-pong balls, tennis balls, children's bicycles and clothes, pencils and sharpeners, erasers and school notebooks.

The school at Al Ameriyah is working closely with a trauma centre, the first of its kind in Iraq, which has been set up by Prof. Raundalen and his colleagues. I met some of the children and heard their stories from Saana Jezrawi, the psychologist in charge.

Ali is nearly seven. His father was a soldier who was killed in the Gulf war. Unlike many, his body was

recovered and brought home to be buried. Ali was present at the funeral and the graveyard is near his home. Every day for two years Ali ran to the grave and tried to dig it up, saying "it's all right, daddy, you can come out now, the men who put you here have gone away."

Another is Luay, whom Prof. Raundalen met on his first post-war visit to Baghdad. During the war, Luay joined a local group that rescued people from bombed houses. A small child, he could crawl into spaces inaccessible to adults. He told Prof. Raundalen how he wriggled into one building to find "the body of a mother."

Further on, he found the body of his baby. He crawled back through the debris and placed the baby

on the mother's breast and wrapped her still-warm arms around it. The 10-year-old said: "The world is out of order."

Luay's mother decided she would give her family a treat. She used the month's sugar rations and some hoarded condiments to bake her husband a surprise birthday cake. Arriving home, he was furious that their supplies had been squandered on such a luxury. His wife walked into the street, doused herself with the only cheap commodity in Iraq — unsaleable petrol — and set herself alight.

In July 1993, the U.N. food and Agricultural Commission noted "with deep concern, the prevalence of several commonly recognised pre-famine indicators" in Iraq. Rations of basics such as tea, sugar, rice and oil provide only one third of the calorific intake the World Health

Organisation estimates is the lowest for nutritional requirements.

Luay's mother decided she would give her family a treat. She used the month's sugar rations and some hoarded condiments to bake her husband a surprise birthday cake. Arriving home, he was furious that their supplies had been squandered on such a luxury. His wife walked into the street, doused herself with the only cheap commodity in Iraq — unsaleable petrol — and set herself alight.

When she was four, Nibal went to Colorado with her parents who were post-graduate students. Amid the atmosphere of paranoia that surrounded the run-up to the Gulf war, the family was expelled. Two days be-

fore the war began, they had settled into their new home in Baghdad — and a new baby brother was just a week old. Nibal believed that the war could not happen. She had grown up in the United States. When the bombing started and glass fell into the baby's cot, Nibal's father tore the feather pillows and duvets from the beds and piled them up in a bathroom without windows. The family sheltered there, using pillows and duvets as protection from Cruise missiles.

Ali, Luay, Sabah and Nibal and others at the centre are the lucky ones. They are receiving help and support. All Iraq's children — a third of the population under 15 — need counselling so that normality and childhood can be restored.

## Rwanda recovery faces host of obstacles

By Julian Bedford  
Reuters

KIGALI — The dead from Rwanda's genocide have become skeletons while the living still struggle with a host of obstacles to reviving their country.

"The massacres have gone so deep, it will be difficult to find forgiveness," says U.N. special representative Shahaar Khan. "If I was a perpetrator I don't think I could ever forgive myself."

"Until there is justice, victims will find it hard to forgive," he told Reuters five months after the Rwandan Patriotic Front (RPF) ended the genocide of up to one million people.

Since last July, Rwanda has had a new government, but progress on helping it recover from the worst genocide in Africa this century has been agonisingly slow despite international aid.

Few of the more than one million Hutu refugees who fled to Tanzania, Zaire and Burundi have gone home. They are victims of intimidation by the former Hutu administration behind the genocide and fear revenge attacks by the RPF or their return.

Some of those Hutus who did return, braving the threats of the Hutu government in exile in the refugee camps abroad, were victims of reprisal attacks by the RPF or Hutu extremists.

Aid has poured in from

more than 100 agencies, but there has been little direct link to the new government or to foreign donors suspicious of the administration in the capital Kigali.

In shell-pocked ministries with little more than desks and chairs, unpaid civil servants try to implement policies without a budget as their problems increase daily with an influx of Tutsis who fled their country during massacres in the 1950s.

Newcomers from the Tutsi minority have moved in houses, farms and businesses of the Hutus still languishing in camps at road and have switched the international language of Kigali from French to English.

Many of those who witnessed and survived last year's slaughter from April to May remain traumatised.

Blank faces greet visitors to a Kigali orphanage as children still cannot confront the horror that their elders unleashed.

One of the men entrusted by the RPF with rebuilding the country, Prime Minister Faustin Twagiramungu, says: "We have three major problems — refugees, security and land — and the three are interlinked."

There is no way one can live in a country without security and the continued presence of over one million of our people outside our borders is a threat to our security.

For them to come

home, these people must feel included in our country. To achieve that, this government must show no hypocrisy, especially over land. We must not exact justice over land tenure.

"If there is to be justice for those who suffered during the massacres — and remember Hutus as well as Tutsis were killed — there must be justice over land, houses and businesses."

Government insistence that properties be returned to their original owners has often been ignored by local authorities, who favour newcomers, who are tainting by the genocide.

The chain of command from head of state to town mayor is weak in a country where communication was knocked back to the Stone Age by retreating troops or militiamen, who looted or destroyed everything to ensure that the RPF inherited nothing.

Until international funds arrive and the government buys the loyalty of its army and civil servants, its authority is weak.

Mr. Khan says financing will start to arrive early in 1995 from the World Bank and European Union (EU) and hopes this will get the state moving, but adds only a basic minimum has been promised.

"It is like a shipwreck. The passengers have been saved from the sea with humanitarian aid. Now the funds are coming to rebuild

the ship. But the ship will need new equipment and that means a lot more money."

"Even a government of angels cannot deliver without money," the U.N. envoy adds. "We must trust them and see how they go."

Mr. Khan says he hopes the government proves trustworthy and delivers on human rights pledges because the future of Rwanda is bleak while the refugees remain in Zaire, Tanzania and Burundi.

Before refugees start returning in meaningful numbers, Mr. Khan says the intimidation campaign must end and the government must make a greater effort to be more welcoming to new arrivals.

Mr. Khan is hopeful that money will allow the government to present a more welcoming face and pay the army to repair the damaged infrastructure and restart the wrecked judicial system.

"If you include land settlement and proprietary rights, then justice is the single most important issue facing the government," Mr. Khan said.

"In 1995 I hope we see two things: the beginnings of the international tribunal and the resurrection of the national stream of justice. These processes must be seen to have started by Rwandans and the refugees for the wounds to start to heal."

## The point of contention — the Golan Heights

By Mariam M. Shahin  
Special to the Jordan Times

QUNEITRA — The liberated capital of the Golan province — Syria's 14th — lies a five-minute drive away from the famous shouting hill, where every Friday, Syrians from the Golan gather to look across a green valley and literally "shout" to their relatives in the Israeli occupied zones and share the news of their daily lives.

Mr. Abu Hamad says that as an Arab from the occupied Golan, he and "all others" want the Golan to be returned to Syria — "because we are part of Syria — not part of Israel."

Mr. Abu Hamad and his fiance return from the shouting hill to Quneitra, where 60,000 people now live in that liberated part of the Golan — the new city of Quneitra. Adjacent to the older and largely destroyed city that was captured by the Israelis in 1967 and liberated by the Syrian army in 1973, the old Quneitra has been preserved in almost the same way as the withdrawing Israeli army left it — destroyed.

The town hospital, which once served a population of 53,000, was used as a target practice by the Israelis during the six-year occupation of the city.

Every house, store, mosque and church was numbered in pale blue English numbers during the occupation. After liberation the Syrians found that most of the town's houses and buildings had been blown up by the retreating army. The Syrians painted references to the buildings' former usage for visitors and tourists — "the barber," "the dentist" and "the restaurant."

The Syrian government sees the destruction of old Quneitra along with the

confines of the Golan," he says. "We have no rights and any well we want to drill, any room we want to build, we need permission from the Israeli occupation authorities; we live under their mercy."

Mr. Abu Hamad says that as an Arab from the occupied Golan, he and "all others" want the Golan to be returned to Syria — "because we are part of Syria — not part of Israel."

During the 1967 Arab-Israeli war, most of the Golan was occupied by the Israelis. U.N. Resolution 242 specifically requires Israel to withdraw from lands occupied in war.

The Golan Heights are a series of mountainous areas some 1,860 square kilometres in size. Of these, Israel still occupies less than 1,250 square kilometres, having forcibly made a partial withdrawal in 1973.

The Golan Heights are Syria's 14th province, home to minority groups such as the Druze, some Christians as well as Circassian Sunnis. In all, Israeli occupation of the Heights displaced some 150,000 indigenous people in 1967. Today they and their descendants number 400,000.

The Syrians that remained on the Golan were mostly Druze mountain villagers. The villages in question are five — they are Majdal Shams, Ain Kina, Masada, Rajar and Bujata. Some 20,000 live in these five occupied villages of the Golan.

Since 1967, Israel has built 40 settlements in the Golan and some 16,000 mostly economic, rather than religious, settlers have made the rich Syrian mountain range their home. Israelis say that

"Israel's best wine comes from the Golan."

One fifth of the Golan consists of forests and according to Syrian government officials, the Golan is dubbed "the Kuwait of Syria" for its economic potential which includes 172 fresh springs.

"They, the Israelis, will never be able to keep it," explains Syrian political analyst, and sometime confidant of the country's decision makers Mohammad Aziz Shukri, Dean of the Law School at the University of Damascus.

Mr. Shukri dismisses Israeli security claims which argue the Golan is a necessary "security valve" to safeguard Israeli borders.

"Our capital is only 35 miles away from the Israeli missiles — security is a state of mind — if anyone is in danger, it is us."

Serving as a central trade route between Asia, India and Europe, Syria has always played a central political as well as economic role in the Middle East since long before the Crusades.

Syrian politicians dismiss talk of "Syria being left out" if a peace with Israel is not concluded soon. "My civilisation goes back to 3,000 B.C.," says Mr. Shukri. "We cannot be left out of any peace deal, we will leave others out," Mr. Shukri says.

Father Fayed Frejjar — a country priest from the southern Syrian province of the Hauran, echoes his compatriot: "We are the oldest Arabs — we were here even before the beginning of time."

# Economy

JORDAN TIMES, WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 4, 1995

## Palestinian authority to freeze new bank licences

GAZA (R) — The newly appointed head of the Palestinian Monetary Authority said he had proposed halting the licensing of banks to operate in Palestinian self-rule areas until he could monitor them properly.

Fouad Biseiso, appointed last week, said at a news conference Monday that a Bank of England specialist would arrive in Gaza soon to help set up a bank monitoring unit, sponsored by the International Monetary Fund (IMF).

Self-rule areas, deprived of banking services under Israeli

occupation, have seen an explosion of activity under self-rule.

Three banks have opened branches in the Gaza Strip and the self-rule enclave of Jericho in the last four months, joining the Bank of Palestine which already operated there.

Managers of the Egyptian-owned Arab Land Bank, the Jordanian-owned Arab Bank and the mainly Jordanian Cairo-Amman Bank say they have attracted over 10,000 Gazans to open bank accounts in recent months, many of them for the first

time.

"I have proposed to stop issuing new licences for banks until we can set up a structure to monitor them properly," Mr. Biseiso said. "I expect this period to last a few months."

Authority officials said PLO leader Yasser Arafat, to whom Mr. Biseiso reports personally, was likely to approve his proposal.

Mr. Biseiso said that apart from those banks now operating, he recognised licences for the commercial bank of Palestine, the investment bank being formed by

Palestinian investors, and some Jordanian banks.

But the applications of many other banks for licences in self-rule areas needed more clarification.

"In particular, I'm saying any new bank will need to run a feasibility study and define its capital so we can be sure it will work on a sound commercial basis," said Mr. Biseiso.

The new Palestinian Monetary Authority will report directly to Mr. Arafat, he said, and be independent from the self-rule authority's finance department and all

other institutions.

Mr. Biseiso, who has drafted guidelines for a Palestinian monetary policy, said he would set up a "bank's bank" as quickly as possible which would assume some of the functions of a central bank. Israel rejects the idea of a Palestinian central bank because it would be a symbol of national sovereignty.

But Mr. Biseiso said this bank would take deposits from other banks, build up foreign exchange reserves and act as the Palestinian authority's banker. He did not set a date for when it would start functioning.

Even before it was set up, the authority would monitor reserve and liquidity ratios of banks in Palestinian areas to ensure they conformed to bank for international settlements standards. It would also watch interest and exchange rates.

Mr. Biseiso said his draft programme was worked out in close cooperation with the IMF but he could not confirm rumours among bankers in Gaza that the fund was thinking of setting up an office in the self-rule areas.

## New Saudi fees could raise \$4b

DUBAI (R) — New measures to raise revenue imposed by the Saudi government are expected to net it at least \$2.5 billion and possibly over \$4 billion, economists and diplomats said Tuesday.

They made these calculations after studying the new year's budget, which cuts spending by 10 billion riyals (\$2.7 billion) to 150 billion (\$40 billion) and raises income by 15 billion (\$4 billion) to 135 billion (\$36 billion).

The new fees mark a novel approach — albeit one called for by the International Monetary Fund — for a government which has until now relied almost exclusively on oil to boost its income.

"They are doing it gradually, but at least they are doing it. They should be applauded for being on the right track," said Henry Azzam, chief economist at National Commercial Bank.

Jeddah-based Azzam noted that the ratio of deficit to gross domestic product was now budgeted to be only about 3.3 per cent, comparing favourably with Western nations.

"They are doing it gradually, but at least they are doing it. They should be applauded for being on the right track," said Henry Azzam, chief economist at National Commercial Bank.

"They are doing it gradually, but at least they are doing it. They should be applauded for being on the right track," said Henry Azzam, chief economist at National Commercial Bank.

"They are doing it gradually, but at least they are doing it. They should be applauded for being on the right track," said Henry Azzam, chief economist at National Commercial Bank.

"They are doing it gradually, but at least they are doing it. They should be applauded for being on the right track," said Henry Azzam, chief economist at National Commercial Bank.

"They are doing it gradually, but at least they are doing it. They should be applauded for being on the right track," said Henry Azzam, chief economist at National Commercial Bank.

"They are doing it gradually, but at least they are doing it. They should be applauded for being on the right track," said Henry Azzam, chief economist at National Commercial Bank.

"They are doing it gradually, but at least they are doing it. They should be applauded for being on the right track," said Henry Azzam, chief economist at National Commercial Bank.

"They are doing it gradually, but at least they are doing it. They should be applauded for being on the right track," said Henry Azzam, chief economist at National Commercial Bank.

"They are doing it gradually, but at least they are doing it. They should be applauded for being on the right track," said Henry Azzam, chief economist at National Commercial Bank.

"They are doing it gradually, but at least they are doing it. They should be applauded for being on the right track," said Henry Azzam, chief economist at National Commercial Bank.

"They are doing it gradually, but at least they are doing it. They should be applauded for being on the right track," said Henry Azzam, chief economist at National Commercial Bank.

"They are doing it gradually, but at least they are doing it. They should be applauded for being on the right track," said Henry Azzam, chief economist at National Commercial Bank.

"They are doing it gradually, but at least they are doing it. They should be applauded for being on the right track," said Henry Azzam, chief economist at National Commercial Bank.

"They are doing it gradually, but at least they are doing it. They should be applauded for being on the right track," said Henry Azzam, chief economist at National Commercial Bank.

"They are doing it gradually, but at least they are doing it. They should be applauded for being on the right track," said Henry Azzam, chief economist at National Commercial Bank.

"They are doing it gradually, but at least they are doing it. They should be applauded for being on the right track," said Henry Azzam, chief economist at National Commercial Bank.

"They are doing it gradually, but at least they are doing it. They should be applauded for being on the right track," said Henry Azzam, chief economist at National Commercial Bank.

"They are doing it gradually, but at least they are doing it. They should be applauded for being on the right track," said Henry Azzam, chief economist at National Commercial Bank.

"They are doing it gradually, but at least they are doing it. They should be applauded for being on the right track," said Henry Azzam, chief economist at National Commercial Bank.

"They are doing it gradually, but at least they are doing it. They should be applauded for being on the right track," said Henry Azzam, chief economist at National Commercial Bank.

"They are doing it gradually, but at least they are doing it. They should be applauded for being on the right track," said Henry Azzam, chief economist at National Commercial Bank.

"They are doing it gradually, but at least they are doing it. They should be applauded for being on the right track," said Henry Azzam, chief economist at National Commercial Bank.

"They are doing it gradually, but at least they are doing it. They should be applauded for being on the right track," said Henry Azzam, chief economist at National Commercial Bank.

"They are doing it gradually, but at least they are doing it. They should be applauded for being on the right track," said Henry Azzam, chief economist at National Commercial Bank.

"They are doing it gradually, but at least they are doing it. They should be applauded for being on the right track," said Henry Azzam, chief economist at National Commercial Bank.

"They are doing it gradually, but at least they are doing it. They should be applauded for being on the right track," said Henry Azzam, chief economist at National Commercial Bank.

"They are doing it gradually, but at least they are doing it. They should be applauded for being on the right track," said Henry Azzam, chief economist at National Commercial Bank.

"They are doing it gradually, but at least they are doing it. They should be applauded for being on the right track," said Henry Azzam, chief economist at National Commercial Bank.

"They are doing it gradually, but at least they are doing it. They should be applauded for being on the right track," said Henry Azzam, chief economist at National Commercial Bank.

"They are doing it gradually, but at least they are doing it. They should be applauded for being on the right track," said Henry Azzam, chief economist at National Commercial Bank.

"They are doing it gradually, but at least they are doing it. They should be applauded for being on the right track," said Henry Azzam, chief economist at National Commercial Bank.

"They are doing it gradually, but at least they are doing it. They should be applauded for being on the right track," said Henry Azzam, chief economist at National Commercial Bank.

"They are doing it gradually, but at least they are doing it. They should be applauded for being on the right track," said Henry Azzam, chief economist at National Commercial Bank.

"They are doing it gradually, but at least they are doing it. They should be applauded for being on the right track," said Henry Azzam, chief economist at National Commercial Bank.

"They are doing it gradually, but at least they are doing it. They should be applauded for being on the right track," said Henry Azzam, chief economist at National Commercial Bank.

"They are doing it gradually, but at least they are doing it. They should be applauded for being on the right track," said Henry Azzam, chief economist at National Commercial Bank.

"They are doing it gradually, but at least they are doing it. They should be applauded for being on the right track," said Henry Azzam, chief economist at National Commercial Bank.

"They are doing it gradually, but at least they are doing it. They should be applauded for being on the right track," said Henry Azzam, chief economist at National Commercial Bank.

"They are doing it gradually, but at least they are doing it. They should be applauded for being on the right track," said Henry Azzam, chief economist at National Commercial Bank.

"They are doing it gradually, but at least they are doing it. They should be applauded for being on the right track," said Henry Azzam, chief economist at National Commercial Bank.

"They are doing it gradually, but at least they are doing it. They should be applauded for being on the right track," said Henry Azzam, chief economist at National Commercial Bank.

"They are doing it gradually, but at least they are doing it. They should be applauded for being on the right track," said Henry Azzam, chief economist at National Commercial Bank.

"They are doing it gradually, but at least they are doing it. They should be applauded for being on the right track," said Henry Azzam, chief economist at National Commercial Bank.

"They are doing it gradually, but at least they are doing it. They should be applauded for being on the right track," said Henry Azzam, chief economist at National Commercial Bank.

"They are doing it gradually, but at least they are doing it. They should be applauded for being on the right track," said Henry Azzam, chief economist at National Commercial Bank.

"They are doing it gradually, but at least they are doing it. They should be applauded for being on the right track," said Henry Azzam, chief economist at National Commercial Bank.

"They are doing it gradually, but at least they are doing it. They should be applauded for being on the right track," said Henry Azzam, chief economist at National Commercial Bank.

"They are doing it gradually, but at least they are doing it. They should be applauded for being on the right track," said Henry Azzam, chief economist at National Commercial Bank.

"They are doing it gradually, but at least they are doing it. They should be applauded for being on the right track," said Henry Azzam, chief economist at National Commercial Bank.

"They are doing it gradually, but at least they are doing it. They should be applauded for being on the right track," said Henry Azzam, chief economist at National Commercial Bank.

"They are doing it gradually, but at least they are doing it. They should be applauded for being on the right track," said Henry Azzam, chief economist at National Commercial Bank.

"They are doing it gradually, but at least they are doing it. They should be applauded for being on the right track," said Henry Azzam, chief economist at National Commercial Bank.

"They are doing it gradually, but at least they are doing it. They should be applauded for being on the right track," said Henry Azzam, chief economist at National Commercial Bank.

"They are doing it gradually, but at least they are doing it. They should be applauded for being on the right track," said Henry Azzam, chief economist at National Commercial Bank.

"They are doing it gradually, but at least they are doing it. They should be applauded for being on the right track," said Henry Azzam, chief economist at National Commercial Bank.

"They are doing it gradually, but at least they are doing it. They should be applauded for being on the right track," said Henry Azzam, chief economist at National Commercial Bank.

"They are doing it gradually, but at least they are doing it. They should be applauded for being on the right track," said Henry Azzam, chief economist at National Commercial Bank.

"They are doing it gradually, but at least they are doing it. They should be applauded for being on the right track," said Henry Azzam, chief economist at National Commercial Bank.

"They are doing it gradually, but at least they are doing it. They should be applauded for being on the right track," said Henry Azzam, chief economist at National Commercial Bank.

"They are doing it gradually, but at least they are doing it. They should be applauded for being on the right track," said Henry Azzam, chief economist at National Commercial Bank.

"They are doing it gradually, but at least they are doing it. They should be applauded for being on the right track," said Henry Azzam, chief economist at National Commercial Bank.

"They are doing it gradually, but at least they are doing it. They should be applauded for being on the right track," said Henry Azzam, chief economist at National Commercial Bank.

"They are doing it gradually, but at least they are doing it. They should be applauded for being on the right track," said Henry Azzam, chief economist at National Commercial Bank.

"They are doing it gradually, but at least they are doing it. They should be applauded for being on the right track," said Henry Azzam, chief economist at National Commercial Bank.

"They are doing it gradually, but at least they are doing it. They should be applauded for being on the right track," said Henry Azzam, chief economist at National Commercial Bank.

"They are doing it gradually, but at least they are doing it. They should be applauded for being on the right track," said Henry Azzam, chief economist at National Commercial Bank.

"They are doing it gradually, but at least they are doing it. They should be applauded for being on the right track," said Henry Azzam, chief economist at National Commercial Bank.

"They are doing it gradually, but at least they are doing it. They should be applauded for being on the right track," said Henry Azzam, chief economist at National Commercial Bank.

"They are doing it gradually, but at least they are doing it. They should be applauded for being on the right track," said Henry Azzam, chief economist at National Commercial Bank.

"They are doing it gradually, but at least they are doing it. They should be applauded for being on the right track," said Henry Azzam, chief economist at National Commercial Bank.

"They are doing it gradually, but at least they are doing it. They should be applauded for being on the right track," said Henry Azzam, chief economist at National Commercial Bank.

"They are doing it gradually, but at least they are doing it. They should be applauded for being on the right track," said Henry Azzam, chief economist at National Commercial Bank.

"They are doing it gradually, but at least they are doing it. They should be applauded for being on the right track," said Henry Azzam, chief economist at National Commercial Bank.

"They are doing it gradually, but at least they are doing it. They should be applauded for being on the right track," said Henry Azzam, chief economist at National Commercial Bank.

"They are doing it gradually, but at least they are doing it. They should be applauded for being on the right track," said Henry Azzam, chief economist at National Commercial Bank.

"They are doing it gradually, but at least they are doing it. They should be applauded for being on the right track," said Henry Azzam, chief economist at National Commercial Bank.

"They are doing it gradually, but at least they are doing it. They should be applauded for being on the right track," said Henry Azzam, chief economist at National Commercial Bank.

"They are doing it gradually, but at least they are doing it. They should be applauded for being on the right track," said Henry Azzam, chief economist at National Commercial Bank.

"They are doing it gradually, but at least they are doing it. They should be applauded for being on the right track," said Henry Azzam, chief economist at National Commercial Bank.

"They are doing it gradually, but at least they are doing it. They should be applauded for being on the right track," said Henry Azzam, chief economist at National Commercial Bank.

"They are doing it gradually, but at least they are doing it. They should be applauded for being on the right track," said Henry Azzam, chief economist at National Commercial Bank.

"They are doing it gradually, but at least they are doing it. They should be applauded for being on the right track," said Henry Azzam, chief economist at National Commercial Bank.

"They are doing it gradually, but at least they are doing it. They should be applauded for being on the right track," said Henry Azzam, chief economist at National Commercial Bank.

"They are doing it gradually, but at least they are doing it. They should be applauded for being on the right track," said Henry Azzam, chief economist at National Commercial Bank.

"They are doing it gradually, but at least they are doing it. They should be applauded for being on the right track," said Henry Azzam

sie over  
am jewels  
olived

**Business  
Daily  
Beat**  
A review  
of economic news  
from the Arabic press

## Used clothes account for 7 per cent of clothing imports

\*\* The president of the association of textile merchants commented on a study by the Jordan Export Development and Trade Centres Corporation saying that 90 per cent of those who depend on the used clothes market are people who earn less than JD 150 a month. The remaining 10 per cent, he added, are people whose income does not permit them to buy specific wear, such as heavy winter clothes. Noting that used clothes are also in demand by the people of neighbouring countries, the president of the association said imports of used clothes represent about seven per cent of total imports of garments. He pointed out that the number of stores dealing with used clothes was between 2,500 to 3,000 all over the country and that these stores employ about 10,000 workers.

\*\* The government decided to build a new road between Amman and Madaba at a cost that may reach JD 8 million. The first step towards the project will be taken in the coming few days after having prepared the tender documents for the road. It is expected that the 4-lane, 12-kilometre-long road will be ready after a maximum of a two-year period (Al Ra'i).

\*\* The Ministry of Post and Communications has expanded its fleet of cars from the beginning of this year to speed up delivery of mail between various cities and villages in the Kingdom (Al Ra'i).

\*\* Abdul Wahab Al Zu'bi is the new general manager of the Jordan Petroleum Refinery Co. Ltd. The services of the former general manager, Saad Al Tal, ended as of Jan. 1, 1995 (Al Ra'i).

\*\* The Arab Land Bank is to increase its capital to JD 10 million. The bank's capital in 1990 was JD 7 million; it was raised four times since the end of 1992 (Al Dostour).

\*\* About 4,500 people will benefit from the new rules allowing cars with temporary entry plates to be customs-cleared. The new rules permit the clearing of cars on temporary entry basis even though they are more than five-years old. Another obstacle that was removed was giving the owners of these cars financial facilities for working out their dues of customs they had to pay (Al Aswag).

\*\* The Industrial Development is working on raising its capital to JD 12 million in the coming few months. The bank extended 147 loans, amounting to JD 29.7 million, in 1994 (Al Dostour).

\*\* The Central Bank reduced the interest rate on its loans and advances to the Agricultural Credit Corporation and Small Scale Industries and Handicraft Fund to 6.5 per cent. Interest rate on loans and advances given to encourage exports and finance housing were reduced to 7.5 per cent.

\*\* The agricultural credit corporation extended a total of JD 1.8 million under a project to give loans to rural families. The project which was set up in 1994, benefited 835 rural families. Loans averaged JD 1,508 per family and were mostly in the field of animal wealth. Seventeen per cent of the loans were extended in central Ghor area, followed by South Shouf and Wadi Al Yabes. Another project for the unemployed extended JD 1 million in credits to 362 borrowers, translating into an average of JD 2,752 per loan (Al Aswag).

## TCC plans to float \$50 million in Eurobonds

By P.V. Vivekanand  
Jordan Times Staff Reporter

AMMAN — The Telecommunications Corporation (TCC) is negotiating with potential managers the floatation of bonds worth \$50 million in the first such Jordanian venture into the European capital market since 1988.

The proposed issue is widely seen as a litmus test for Jordan's hopes to attract foreign capital to local investments in the wake of the emerging new opportunities after the Kingdom and Israel signed a historic peace treaty in October.

The peace treaty, which ended a 46-year state of war, is also seen as having largely eliminated the state of instability and uncertainty that prompted many international investors to channel their capital to the Kingdom.

Afram Jamil, deputy general manager of the state-owned TCC, said a final decision on granting the mandate for managing the issue was expected soon.

Mr. Jamil dismissed reports that the TCC had already concluded a deal with ANZ Grindlays to manage the issue. "We are continuing the negotiations with the (potential) managers of the issue and a final decision is expected soon," he told the Jordan Times.

Nine banks were reported to have submitted bids for managing the issue and five of them are shortlisted. According to banking sources, ANZ Grindlays is one of the main contenders among the shortlisted five.

The Amman regional office of ANZ Grindlays referred all queries to the bank's London offices, which bank officials said was directly in charge of the affair.

The World Bank will guarantee the principal and the TCC, through the Central Bank of Jordan (CBJ), will guarantee the yield on the bonds.

The proposed issue is expected to reduce the rate of yield since such an undertaking by the world body automatically reduces the risk for investors.

The proceeds of the issue of the seven-year bonds will be used to finance TCC expansion projects expected to be implemented in three years starting early 1995, Mr. Jamil said. The projects are estimated to cost around \$200 million.

The European Investment

Bank (EIB), an arm of the European Union, is granting \$50 million as a loan to finance the projects, the Eximbank of Japan \$23 million and the World Bank is providing \$20 million. The rest of the needed funds would be provided by the TCC itself.

"The projects involve basic services and expansion both vertically and horizontally," Mr. Jamil said.

The TCC, which holds a monopoly for basic phone services in the Kingdom, is expected to launch moves towards gradual privatisation in mid-1995. The scope of privatisation and how far the government is willing to let go of one of the major income-earners of the Treasury remain unclear.

The TCC made an operational profit of around JD 100 million in 1993 and is expected to have raised it by about 20 per cent in 1994.

Economic analysts noted that the very fact that nine banks were interested in managing the TCC bond issue reflected the emerging international interest in Jordan and expectations that the offer would meet a strong response in the European capital market.

While interest in internationally guaranteed bonds cannot be seen as reflecting interest in direct investments, bankers say that the TCC bond issue should serve as opening the door for Jordan to sound out the international capital market at a time when the global race for capital is fierce.

## Jordan phosphate exports rise 7%

AMMAN (R) — Jordan's Phosphate Mines Company (JPMC), a major world producer, saw rock phosphates exports rise seven per cent in 1994 to 3,824,900 tonnes, its managing director said Tuesday.

"More marketing efforts were made in 1994 to rehabilitate our position in our traditional markets, which also saw an increase in exports to Australia, a growing potential market," Sameh Madani told Reuters.

Exports in 1993 were 3,564,960 tonnes. The Kingdom, world's second largest exporter, has a seven million tonnes production capacity but consumes about one million tonnes for fertiliser production.

Exports were partly boosted by buoyant demand from India, Jordan's main market, with sales rising to 1,008,000 tonnes in 1994 from 835,000 tonnes in 1993.

Australia's falling phosphates reserves have prompted it to seek new suppliers and JPMC concluded a 300,000-tonne deal in 1994. Jordan's exports of diammonium phosphate rose 46.5 per cent in 1994 to 700,620 tonnes from 477,817 tonnes in 1993, Mr. Madani said.

## Jewellery business booms in Russia

MOSCOW (AFP) — As an investment or as presents, gemstones are catching the eye of the rich and the less well off in Russia, and jewellery shops are all over Moscow.

"Sapphires and emeralds are selling like hot cakes," said a delighted Galya Kanunnikova, who runs one of the new jewellery outlets in the GUM department store on Red Square.

She has rings, bracelets and other Western-made ornaments on offer from \$200 to \$10,000 a piece.

The latter often has several shops, but is never there for official receptions and his or her name appears on no document.

A truck factory in the Urals, short of cash, pays its workers their monthly wages in gold rings, necklaces or earings. It used to be a leading manufacturer of trucks and spare parts for the army's tanks, but became unable to pay proper wages for six months.

"We had to do something. we couldn't pay them in lorries," said a member of management.

Western style by a French architect who also designed the fittings and had them made in Italy.

"On average, customers spend \$600 to \$700, some as an investment, some to buy presents," she said.

Such profitable trade is also extremely risky because of the attentions of organised crime, jewellers know. Generally speaking, the "official" owner who gives you a business card is not the real proprietor.

The latter often has several shops, but is never there for official receptions and his or her name appears on no document.

A truck factory in the Urals, short of cash, pays its workers their monthly wages in gold rings, necklaces or earings. It used to be a leading manufacturer of trucks and spare parts for the army's tanks, but became unable to pay proper wages for six months.

"Small rings at \$300 are selling very well," Ms. Kanunnikova said as she moved from a fur-clad woman to a man in an overcoat who simply wanted "something" for about one million roubles (\$285).

Business is good and it shows in the shop's modern

AMMAN FINANCIAL MARKET HOUSING BANK CENTER - AMMAN - SIEHLANI TELEPHONE: 663170 / 663170		ORGANIZED MARKET SHARS PRICE LIST FOR TUESDAY 03/01/1995	
COMPANY'S NAME	NO. OF SHARES TRADED	PREV. TRADING JD	CLOSING PRICE
ARAB BANK	20	3645	181.500 182.250
JORDAN NATIONAL BANK	3667	15228	4.110 4.150
JORDAN NATIONAL BANK / NEW	18794	73377	3.840 3.930
MIDDLE EAST INVESTMENT BANK	3350	5575	1.590 1.660
JORDAN KUWAITI BANK	1592	4757	2.980 2.990
JORDAN NATIONAL BANK	7050	11329	1.590 1.600
JORDAN NATIONAL BANK	222	8285	3.100 3.150
UNION BANK FOR SAVING & INVESTMENT	1200	5500	5.000 5.020
BUSINESS BANK	250	908	3.630 3.630
REED KHALID SAVING & INVESTMENT FOR HOUSING	1419	1.330	3.180
ARMAN BANK FOR INVESTMENT	4050	6089	1.480 1.510
PHILADELPHIA INVESTMENT BANK	2685	4562	1.660 1.690
BANKS SECTOR		140656	INDEX NUMBER: 157.58 CHANGE: +40.47%
JORDANIAN FRENCH INSURANCE	1650	4076	2.480 2.470
ARAB LIFE & ACCIDENT INSURANCE	250	635	2.540 2.540
ARAB UNION INTERNATIONAL INSURANCE	250	795	3.350 3.180
INSURANCE SECTOR		2150	5506 INDEX NUMBER: 138.15 CHANGE: -0.05%
JORDANIAN ELECTRIC POWER	8270	12833	1.540 1.560
JORDANIAN ELECTRIC POWER / NEW	11400	17291	1.500 1.520
JORDAN IRON & MINERAL	200	530	2.520 2.650
ARMED FORCES CONTRACTS	250	2213	4.950 4.850
NATIONAL PETROLEUM SPECTRUM	450	1020	2.000 2.020
REAL ESTATE INVESTMENT	1150	1579	1.350 1.370
JORDAN GULF REAL ESTATE INVESTMENT	2750	3368	1.170 1.230
JORDAN PRESS FOUNDATION / ALRA'I	838	10705	12.650 12.800
UNITED MIDDLE EAST & COMMODORE HOTELS	9522	23260	2.410 2.440
ARAB INTER. FOR INVESTMENT & EDUCATION	2500	8625	3.450 3.450
SERVICES SECTOR		37430	80802 INDEX NUMBER: 132.15 CHANGE: +0.23%
ASTANAKER CONSTR. MATERIAL MANUFACTURING	2250	3072	1.340 1.370
THE JORDAN CEMENT FACTORIES	13937	40582	2.910 2.910
JORDAN PHOSPHATE MINES	100	296	2.970 2.960
THE ARAB POTASH / NEW	250	1363	5.350 5.450
JORDAN PETROLEUM REFINERY	1453	13892	9.380 9.600
THE INDUSTRIAL COMMERCIAL & AGRICULTURAL	50	50	7.420 7.450
JORDAN HORSTED MILLS	1574	6884	4.400 4.550
ARAB PHARMACEUTICAL MANUFACTURING	2400	18530	7.700 7.700
SPINNING & WEAVING	2800	14875	5.200 5.380
RAFIA INDUSTRIES	950	2505	2.700 2.650
DAR AL DAWA DEVELOPMENT & INVESTMENT	3750	10557	2.790 2.830
ARM AL-WEETAN & INTERNATIONAL TRADE	2265	37592	16.200 16.650
ARM AL-WEETAN & INTERNATIONAL TRADE	4550	4614	1.000 1.030
LIVESTOCK & POULTRY	173	1314	6.900 7.050
ARAB PAPER CONVERTING & TRADING	34000	32360	1.950 1.970
INTERMEDIATE PETRO-CHEMICAL INDUSTRIES	25150	36559	1.440 1.460
JORDAN CHEMICAL INDUSTRIES	2200	6178	2.830 2.850
JORDAN ROCKWELL INDUSTRIES	100	512	5.390 5.120
JORDAN INDUSTRIES & MATCH / JIMCO	150	233	1.520 1.550
MACKENZIE CABLE & WIRE MANUFACTURING	3500	2990	.840 .860
JORDAN SUDAN CHEMICALS	1393	7393	5.250 5.330
ARAB CENTER FOR PHARMA & CHEMICALS	650	1318	1.960 2.020
KARTHIER INVESTMENT	2120	5932	2.170 2.180
UNIVERSAL MODERN INDUSTRIES	900	3789	4.190 4.210
JORDAN INDUSTRIAL RESOURCES CO.	250	608	2.560 2.630
INDUSTRIAL SECTOR		107450	255182 INDEX NUMBER: 129.14 CHANGE: +0.67%
GRAND TOTAL		192273	482146 INDEX NUMBER: 143.95 CHANGE: +0.51%
NO. OF TRADED SHARES IN PARALLEL MARKET :		289564	
VALUE TRADED IN PARALLEL MARKET :		333199	

## JORDAN MARKET PLACE

### FOR RENT

Many apartments and villas furnished and unfurnished. We also have many listings of villas, flats, and building lots

**FOR SALE** Commercial and residential.



...aga

## Coulthard move could end Mansell's career

RIS (AFP) — David Coulthard will team up with "mon" Hill at Williams in the season's world Formula 1 championship, the British team's engine suppliers said Tuesday.

The move may bring Nigel Mansell's career to an end: a 41-year-old former world champion broke off from racing in the IndyCar series in the United States to race for Williams in four races last year.

At one point it looked as if a win at Adelaide in the Australian Grand Prix last weekend would clinch his place in the Williams' team. But Coulthard forced Mark Williams into taking his option on the 23-year-old by signing a contract with McLaren which the motor racing authority, FIA, effectively ruled invalid.

"He has a great future ahead of him," Williams said of Coulthard.

McLaren, Benetton and Jordan have all distanced themselves from Mansell and looks as if the 1992 world champion will not find other drive. Benetton last week dismissed reports that Mansell could be driving for them this season. Team president Emanuele Benetton said fellow Briton Johnny Herbert

will almost certainly line up alongside world champion Michael Schumacher although an announcement will not be made until the end of January.

Ferrari — one of Mansell's former teams — have also stated there is no place for him, leaving McLaren and a link-up with Mika Hakkinen as the only remaining possibility.

But McLaren boss Ron Dennis has never been a great fan of Mansell.

Coulthard is believed to have signed a contract with Williams shortly before Christmas which should net him around 500,000 pounds from his first full season on the circuit.

He finished eighth in the drivers' championship last season after competing in only half of the 16 races.

With Coulthard partnering Hill, it will be the first time a winning formula one team has started a new season with an all-British lineup since Damon's father, the late Graham Hill, partnered Jim Clark at Lotus in 1968.

Coulthard drove Formula Three and F3000 for the Paul Stewart Racing team in 1992-93 when he came under former triple world champion Jackie Stewart's wing.

## Maradona may be jailed

BUENOS AIRES (AFP) — Former Argentine football star Diego Maradona violated a court sentence when he took a vacation to Cuba and could be jailed when he returns, prosecutor Alejandro Caride said.

Caride said Maradona failed to notify judge Julio Campora that he planned to leave Argentina, as required by his sentence for shooting an air rifle at journalists outside his house last summer.

Maradona was sentenced to four years in prison for the shooting, but the sentence was reduced on Dec. 19 to a \$20,000 fine and a promise that he would not leave his house for more than 24 hours without notifying the judge.

This week Caride asked Campora to revoke the suspension of Maradona's prison term. If his request is accepted the judge could order that Maradona be arrested upon his return to Argentina.

Marcelo Permonen, a lawyer representing one of the journalists, said: "He did not respect his agreement with the court, for this the prosecutor requested that his exemption from prison be revoked."

## Cleveland Cavaliers take slow road to success

CLEVELAND (AP) — Call it slow, call it frustrating, call it downright dull. The Cleveland Cavaliers are happy to be riding the National Basketball Association's longest winning streak thanks to their tortoise-like offense.

"You can call it ugly or pretty or whatever you want," said guard Bobby Phills. "We just go out each and every game and try to get the win."

The Cavs have done just that in their last 11 games, equaling the longest winning streak in the club's history and opening a two-game gap at the top of the Eastern Conference Central Division.

Their record of 20-8 trails only Orlando (23-6) and Phoenix (21-7) in the entire NBA, and their streak is the longest in the league this season.

They haven't done it by taking advantage of the more forgiving three-point line, or new rules designed to encourage attacking play.

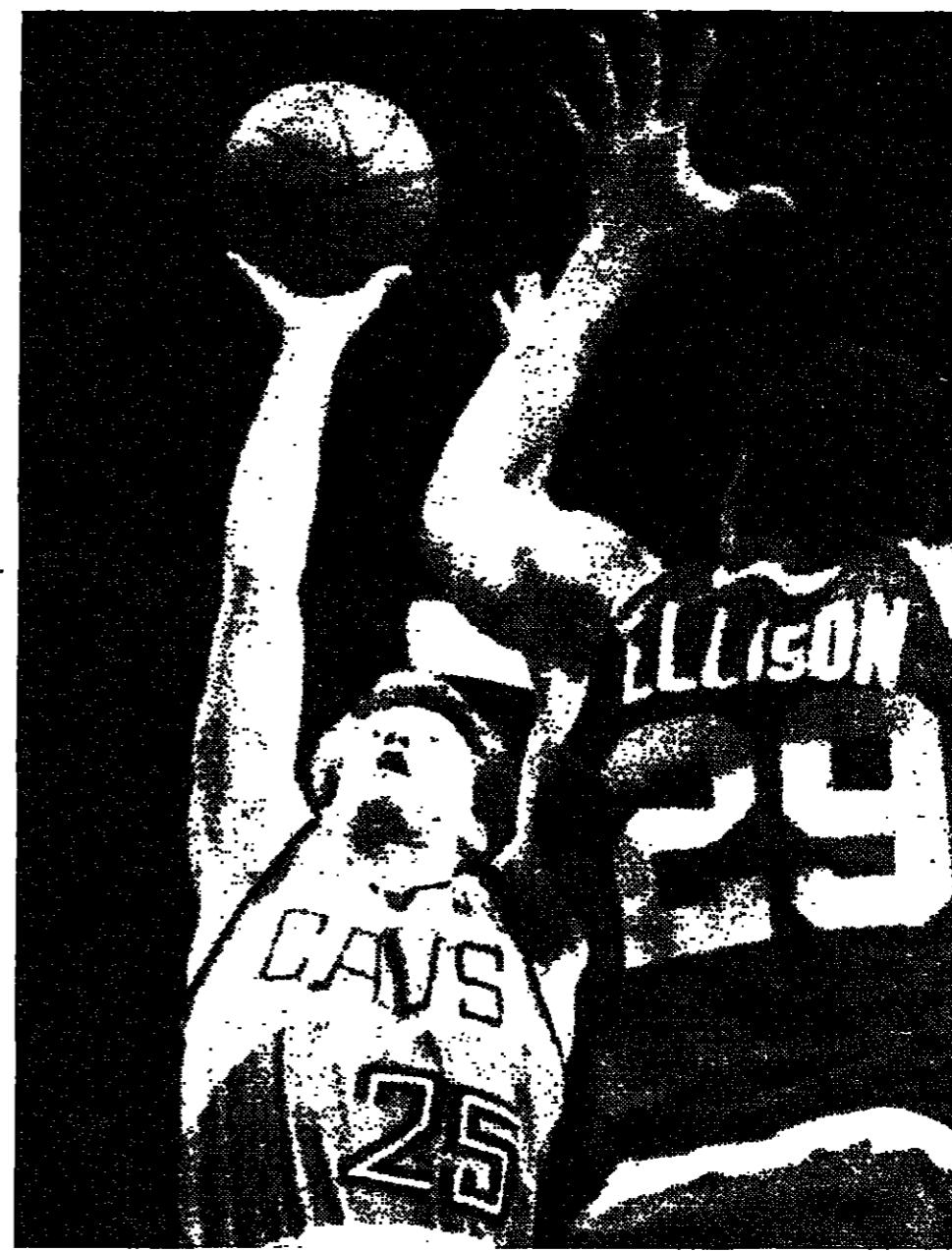
Instead, coach Mike Fratello has sent the Cavaliers in almost the opposite direction, playing methodical offense backed up by a rock-solid defense to produce some of the lowest scores seen since the 24-second shot clock was introduced in 1954.

The system makes a virtue of what could otherwise be considered the Cavaliers' biggest weakness: their lack of firepower. "They just play hard-nosed defense," Cheaney said. "They've got a good rotation on their defense."

That very fact may contribute to Cleveland's sense of humility.

"When you look back and realize that you had to play at Chicago, at New York, at New Jersey, those are tough places to win games."

"It hasn't been like we've been facing a lot of teams that we expect to win against. We can't look at



Mark Price of the Cleveland Cavaliers #25 shoots over Pervis Ellison of the Boston Celtics (AP photo)

any team like it's one we expect to beat."

And with Fratello relying on strong contributions from so many players, keeping them all healthy is

a big concern.

"The only thing that will hurt us is if somebody gets hurt," Hill said. "If Mark Price or Horace Williams goes down, we'll really be hurting."

"After the All-Star break, it's going to be tough. We're just trying to build a cushion in case that happens."

## Shearer grabs three goals as Blackburn win

INDON (AP) — Alan Shearer scored his second hat-trick of the season to put Blackburn six points clear at the top of the English Premier League Monday — only after they were given a scare by West Ham.

The England striker took tally of goals of 23 as Blackburn were forced to come from behind for a 4-2 home triumph on an Arctic smörgåsbord.

The millionaire club now sit at the top of the table with 52 points, six clear of champions Manchester United, who are home to Coventry on Sunday.

English bookmaker William Hill has now installed Blackburn, who beat Crystal Palace Saturday, as 13-8 on favorites to win the competition.

Two of Shearer's goals came from the penalty spot, first after 14 minutes when he was upended by West Ham goalkeeper Ludek Losko.

But Harry Redknapp's men — without a win outside London — equalized through Tony Cottee's sixth goal in five games in the 33rd minute and took the more exposed side in the first half.

They then moved into a 2-1 lead when Julian Dicks scored in the 56th minute.

But any hopes West Ham had of pulling off an unlikely win came crashing down when Graeme Le Saux fired with a free-kick in the 61st minute to level the match and Shearer then ran on the style to smash his second and third goals, the latter from the penalty spot after 79 minutes.

"We were sloppy at times and when we went 2-1 up it's like kick up the backside needed," admitted Shearer.

But we showed character by coming back to the three points."

Shearer paid tribute to the midfield work of West Ham.

"They looked quite serious which is a credit to them because not many have come here and that."

Two games in three days and work and it showed a

bit at times, but we finished very strongly which is pleasing," added Shearer, who refused to say Rovers were now on course for their first title in more than half a century.

"At one stage last season Manchester United were 16 points ahead and to say we're pulling away now we are six ahead is ridiculous.

"I think people are starting to get excited prematurely but I would rather be here than at the bottom and think we are safe from the drop now."

Robbie Fowler remains hard on Shearer's goal-scoring heels after netting two goals in title-chasing Liverpool's 4-0 win over Norwich, their fourth victory as many holiday-period games.

The England Under-21 striker's double boosted his tally for the season to 22 and gave teenage goalkeeper Andy Marshall a tough lesson about the game's fickle fortunes.

Marshall, the hero in Norwich's 2-1 success over Newcastle on Saturday in his first match as the injured Bryan Gunn's deputy, had a torrid time.

First John Scales headed in from a corner after 14 minutes. Then Fowler, latching on to Ian Rush's pass, put the ball between Marshall's legs in the 38th minute.

He scored again two minutes into the second half and Rush completed the rout seven minutes from time.

Andy Dibble saved Ruel Fox's penalty as Newcastle

## Australians question cost of rescuing yachtswoman

SYDNEY (R) — Officials of an around-the-world yacht race Tuesday defended the rescue of French yachtswoman Isabelle Autissier as the Australian media questioned the estimated A\$1 million (\$775,000) cost of the operation.

"The cost of not launching the rescue is a human life," an angry organiser of the BOC race, Dan McConnell, told reporters at a Sydney news conference.

Autissier was winched from her dismasted yacht last Sunday after huge sub-Antarctic seas and gales rolled her 18-metre (54-foot) yacht, the Eureuil Poitou Charentes II, 900 Nautical miles south of Australia.

The 38-year-old yachtswoman was heading for Sydney on the second leg of the solo round-the-world race when she set off distress beacons last Wednesday in the perilous area known to sailors as the roaring forties.

But BOC officials said Australia was obliged under international conventions to rescue sailors off its coast.

"Australia is party of the United Nations and the United Nations has an agreement with nations that have

coastlines ... and they take responsibility for search and rescue of sailors off their coast," McConnell said.

Australia's search and rescue responsibilities stem from two international conventions established by the International Maritime Organisation, the 1972 International Convention for the Safety of Life at Sea (SOLAS) and the 1979 Convention on Maritime Search and Rescue.

The conventions create an obligation to save life first, then quibble about the costs later.

Autissier said after the news conference she was surprised by the cost questions.

"I have never heard in any other emergency situation

### DELUXE 'Semi-Palace' Villa For Sale or Rent

6 bedrooms, 7 bathrooms, wide halls, beside an outside section for housekeepers & drivers residence. Site: Rabiah Land: 3000 S.M. Building: 700 S.M.

Al Bitar Real Estate Office, Tel: 862486

Under the Patronage of  
HRH Prince Ra'ad Bin Zeid

Al-Hussein Society for the Rehabilitation of  
the Physically Handicapped  
in cooperation with

The British Council

presents



### Towards Humanity

A concert  
with the British flautist

**Wissam Boustanly**  
and pianist  
**Amira Fouad**

The Programme includes pieces by Donizetti, Doppler, Chopin, Heath, Boustanly and Franck.

Date: Wednesday, 4 January  
Time: 8pm  
Location: Royal Cultural Centre  
Price: 8 JD

**TICKETS AVAILABLE AT:** The Royal Cultural Centre  
• The British Council  
• Marriott Hotel.

Thanks to our special sponsor **Amrit**.

### FOR SALE DUTY UNPAID

Jeep USA. Jeep Wrangler 1994  
re 2.5.

JD10,500  
Phone: 06/649482

NADIM SAWALHA will hold

### A DRAMA WORKSHOP

(10th Jan - 12th Feb 1995. Evenings 5.30 - 7.30)

Acting, Movement, Speech, Voice,  
Concentration and Relaxation

For details: Call Abeer at the  
Nabil and Hisham Theater  
Tel: 625155

### COMEDIAN WANTED

LOOKING FOR A PROFESSIONAL  
COMEDIAN TO PERFORM IN FRONT OF  
A PERSON

I WANT TO PUT A SMILE ON HER FACE



WHO HAVE THE ABILITY TO DO SO  
PLEASE CALL 961906 BETWEEN 10-11 AM.



PROTEST IN MOSCOW: Surrounded by fellow demonstrators with placards, some activists lie on the ground during a symbolic "die-in" protest at Moscow Square on Tuesday. They protested at the death of Chechens and

Russians in the current military conflict in the breakaway republic and demanded an immediate stop of all Russian military actions in Chechnya (see page one) (AFP photo)

## Peres: Syria deadlock should not halt peace

CAIRO (Agencies) — Israel, upset by Arab support for Syria in deadlocked talks with the Jewish state, said on Tuesday normalisation of relations with Arabs must not be conditional on moving towards peace with Damascus.

Israeli Foreign Minister Shimon Peres arrived in Cairo on Tuesday for talks with Egyptian President Hosni Mubarak on issues ranging from bilateral ties to Palestinian and Syrian peace deals.

Mr. Peres was later to head his delegation in talks with the Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) on expanding Palestinian self-rule in the occupied West Bank. But Mr. Peres' main concern was to seek clarifications on the summit in Alexandria last week between Egypt, Syria and Saudi Arabia, which gave unusually strong support to Damascus in peace talks with Israel.

Mr. Peres told a news conference that Mr. Mubarak "said the purpose of the (Arab) meeting was not to stop the peace process or to slow it down... on the contrary, to promote it. Egypt feels as we do that there has come to make peace with Syria."

Mr. Peres said he understood there was no intention "to condition one move upon another move. Whenever we can make headway, we

should do it in the direction of peace."

The summit angered Israel which it implicitly promised Syria that Arab countries would not fully develop relations with Israel before Syria struck its own deal, diplomats said.

The Israel-Syria talks are stuck on the question of Israeli withdrawal from the Golan Heights, which have been in Israeli control since the 1967 Middle East war.

An Israeli source said his country feared Damascus was dragging Cairo into adopting a hardline stance towards Israel and delaying normalisation of ties between them.

Mr. Mubarak, seeking to calm Israeli told Israeli journalists: "There was no plan directed against Israel or at slowing down the normalisation of relations with Israel."

Asked whether Syrian President Hafez Al Assad had relayed any new suggestion during the summit to move talks forward, Mr. Mubarak said: "President Assad wants peace and we encourage this attitude... we hope we can reach something by the middle of this year. God willing."

On normalising relations between Arab countries and Israel, Mr. Mubarak said: "Each country has the right to normalise relations with Israel and we do not object."

Egyptian Foreign Minister Amr Musa said the Mubarak-Peres meeting touched on another sensitive issue, the signing of the nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty.

Egypt, which in 1979 became the first Arab country to make peace with Israel, has asked Arabs not to sign an extension of the treaty unless Israel signed.

Cairo has urged Israel, which is widely believed to possess nuclear weapons, to sign but Israel says it will not do so as long as it faces a potential nuclear threat from enemies such as Syria, Iraq and Iran.

Mr. Musa bristled when an Israeli reporter told him the nuclear issue was causing tension in relations.

"You have to learn that to differ with you is not necessarily to be an enemy of you. You have to accept that we differ with Israel on this question... to think that whenever we say 'no', or disagree, this means that we are against you, is wrong. You have to change your mind and attitude."

Mr. Peres also made a lengthy plea for an economic policy that would enable the Middle East to compete with other regions like Asia.

The Israeli minister called for cutting Middle East military spending, which he said amounts to \$10 billion a year, and using the savings for development.

He also pleaded for the return of the region's capital invested abroad, which he estimated at \$600 billion, and for setting up new infrastructure adapted to peace.

He urged efforts to save the mainly desert region's water, 80 per cent of which he said is wasted.

"Israel is interested in being reintegrated in the re-

gion. We want to reintegrate ourselves not as a leader or a dominating party," he told a conference held by the U.S.-Egyptian Chamber of Commerce.

Mr. Peres dismissed as "nonsense" accusations from a participant that Israel wanted to dominate the region. "It makes me smile," he said.

"I don't understand the expression Arab economics. There is no Arab economy or Arab economy," he added.

"A modern economy is not based on domination, but on competition," he argued, saying Middle East countries have to choose between a competitive economy based on rules and a deficient one.

Mr. Peres also made a lengthy plea for an economic policy that would enable the Middle East to compete with other regions like Asia.

The Israeli minister called for cutting Middle East military spending, which he said amounts to \$10 billion a year, and using the savings for development.

He also pleaded for the return of the region's capital invested abroad, which he estimated at \$600 billion, and for setting up new infrastructure adapted to peace.

He urged efforts to save the mainly desert region's water, 80 per cent of which he said is wasted.

"Israel is interested in being reintegrated in the re-

## Yemen says 2 killed in Saudi border clashes

DUBAI (R) — Yemen's government has told diplomats in Sanaa that two Yemenis were killed and six wounded in a New Year's Day border clash with Saudi Arabian troops, diplomats said on Tuesday.

Yemeni Parliament Speaker Sheikh Abdallah Al Ahmar played down the incident in remarks quoted by the Saudi Press Agency overnight. But the diplomats said Deputy Foreign Minister Abdul Ali Abdul Rahman on Monday briefed diplomats from the five permanent members of the Security Council on the border clash, which he said occurred on Sunday.

Mr. Abdul Rahman charged that Saudi forces attacked Al Buqa, a north-eastern town close to the disputed border.

One Western diplomat said his embassy was told by another senior Yemeni official that three people were killed and five were wounded.

He said Abdul Rahman claimed that Saudi military units attacked a border post.

"There is no way to (immediately) verify if military units or tribesmen were involved in the clash," he said.

The official purpose of the meeting with the envoys of the United States, Britain, France, Russia and China was to inform them of the clash.

"I guess Yemen wants the five permanent members to speak to the Saudis to find out what is happening and tell them to cool it," the diplomat added.

Despite the rise in tension in the past few months and Yemeni claims that Saudi Arabia was building up its border force, diplomats say Sanaa is eager not to escalate the situation and is undertaking efforts to narrow differences.

Yemen is "anxious not to play the incident up, play things quietly and seriously want to improve ties," one said.

Asked if Saudi Arabia was massing troops along the border, he said: "I believe that is the case... (Abdul Rahman) claimed that Saudi Arabia was boosting its troops along the border."

The Saudi Press Agency quoted Sheikh Ahmar as denying in a radio interview "reports quoting Yemeni officials accusing Saudi Arabia of penetrating a border area."

"He said that what happened was a kind of misunderstanding and not a penetration in... Yemen's Sanaa province," the official Saudi agency added.

An official Yemeni statement issued in Sanaa on Sunday night said an attack was mounted deep inside Yemeni territory.

It described the alleged attack as new aggression, and said "Hawks" within the Saudi leadership were trying to derail reconciliation efforts by Yemeni President Ali Abdullah Saleh and Saudi King Fahd.

Mr. Ahmar told the British Broadcasting Corporation (BBC) there were "elements trying to harm relations between the two states," adding that efforts were under way to end the two countries' differences.

The speaker last week visited Saudi Arabia, where he met the king and the crown prince during the first visit to the kingdom by a Yemeni official since the settlement of Ariel.

Elsewhere in the West Bank, some 500 Palestinians demonstrated against the construction of a security fence around the Jewish settlement of Ariel.

Waving Palestinian flags, the demonstrators marched from the neighbouring village of Salfit and gathered on a hill before dispersing peacefully.

The villagers say the fence encloses plots of land which belong to them, while the Ariel authorities argue that the fence is to be built on public land granted to the settlement by the state.

Some 13,000 Israelis live in Ariel, which covers 3,000 hectares of land.

The government recently authorised the building of 140 extra housing units there.

## Algerian group said to have warned Germans

HAMBURG, Germany (Agencies) — Algerian extremists have set a Jan. 7 deadline for Germany's embassy personnel in Algiers to leave Algeria, the weekly magazine Stern reported in its issue to be published Thursday.

A spokesman for the German foreign ministry in Bonn would not confirm or deny the report, saying it concerned security matters.

Germany cut back its embassy staff in Algiers after a surge of violence against foreigners by militants trying to topple the military-backed government in Algiers.

Stern said German security officials were taking the Islamic threat, contained in a German-language letter, very seriously.

Other Western embassies had received similar threats.

In Paris, French authorities on Tuesday identified a third of the four hijackers behind the hostage drama on board an Air France jet last week, judicial sources said.

It said the French government had been shown to be in collaboration with the Algerian regime through the assault by French special forces on the hijacked Air France Airbus in Marseille.

The Air France jet was hijacked by four men.

The four hijackers remain unidentified.

The head of the hijack team was named soon after the drama ended by the Algerian interior minister as Abdallah Yahia, from the Al Harrach region of the former French colony.

Three days later a second member was identified by Algerian officials using fingerprints obtained by French police. He was Makhlouf Benguettat, 25, also from Al Harrach.

The four hijackers, who seized the Airbus with more than 200 passengers on board at Algiers airport on Dec. 24, were killed by crack French intervention troops at Marseille airport two days later.

The FIS has no interest in making war in France and has no interest in extending either here or elsewhere in Europe, a conflict which must remain intra-Algerian," he added.

And he directly attacked the Armed Islamic Group saying they save terrorism as an end in itself.

"Whereas the Islamic Salvation Army sees it as a way to bring power to the negotiating table. We are convinced that the solution is political and we want it to be peaceful," he added.

The FIS has spearheaded the fundamentalist insurgency against the Algerian government since the army came to power in 1992 elections which the FIS was poised to win.

## COLUMN 8

Man takes ex-wife hostage to avenge uncaring world

TOKYO (R) — A Japanese man, bitter at an uncaring world, held his 70-year-old ex-wife at knifepoint for 21 hours in the hospital where she worked as a nurse, police said Tuesday. Masaru Nakagawa, 62, barricaded himself in a changing room in the Tokyo hospital with the woman, who divorced him about a year ago. Holding a knife to her chest, he shouted to police that he was prepared to die. He eventually released her and gave himself up early Tuesday. Police are still investigating the motive, but Mr. Nakagawa, told them he became angry after he called his brother's house to say Happy New Year and his sister-in-law slammed the phone down on him.

The man was named as Salim Layadi, 24, from Kouba in Algeria. It was not clear whether he was a known member of the Armed Islamic Group (GIA), the radical group which claimed responsibility for the hijacking.

Last week's editorial, in the Al Feth Al Mouhib (crushing victory) newsletter, said that "war against France has become a legal duty" under Islamic Sharia law.

The FIS has been shown to be in collaboration with the Algerian regime through the assault by French special forces on the hijacked Air France Airbus in Marseille.

The British police on drugs raid stuck in lift

LONDON (R) — Nine British police officers on a drugs raid failed to reach their target after they squeezed into a lift made for eight — and it ground to a halt. The police were trapped for 45 minutes in the lift in Conventry, central England, before their cries for help were heard, the Sun newspaper reported Tuesday. "I told them I would get the police and they shouted: 'We are the bloody police — get the fire brigade,'" said Eddie Laide, a resident of the block of flats where the police were trapped.

Pentagon hacker, 16, arrested

LONDON (AFP) — London police have arrested a boy of 16 suspected of having hacked his way into the computers of the Pentagon and laid bare U.S. defence secrets, the Independent reported Tuesday.

He had access to banks of data on research into ballistic missiles, warplane projects, equipment, pay, personal files and communications from agents on North Korea at the height of the crisis over Pyongyang's nuclear programme, the paper said.

The boy, identified as a member of the Islamic Salvation Army (FIS) was victim of a misinformation campaign by "suspect parties" who wanted to damage its cause. The threat was made in a statement transmitted to AFP by the FIS eastern committee.

"It would be stupid and a strategic error to extend the conflict into other countries," said Brahim Younessi, an advisor to Sheikh Abdalbaki Sahrour, a founding member of the FIS, in an interview with the Catholic La Croix.

The FIS has no interest in making war in France and has no interest in extending either here or elsewhere in Europe, a conflict which must remain intra-Algerian," he added.

And he directly attacked the Armed Islamic Group saying they save terrorism as an end in itself.

"Whereas the Islamic Salvation Army sees it as a way to bring power to the negotiating table. We are convinced that the solution is political and we want it to be peaceful," he added.

The FIS has spearheaded the fundamentalist insurgency against the Algerian government since the army came to power in 1992 elections which the FIS was poised to win.

## NEWS IN BRIEF

### Family calls for Iraqi defector to die

BAGHDAD (AFP) — The family of Iraqi former secret service chief Wafic Sammarai, who joined the opposition last month, on Tuesday called for his death, in an announcement published Tuesday in Iraq's official newspapers. General Sammarai's brothers and other relatives, in a message to President Saddam Hussein published in the press here, said that they have "disowned" him and that they approved the "shedding of his blood for having betrayed the nation." Gen. Sammarai had "joined agents on a foreign payroll," in a reference to the Iraqi National Congress (INC), a coalition of several opposition groups based in the Kurdish-held areas of northern Iraq. Gen. Sammarai's family renewed its allegiance to President Saddam and its "full readiness to defend the nation."

U.N. chief wants to revamp peacekeeping

NEW YORK (AFP) — U.N. peacekeeping operations should be streamlined to make them more efficient and allow the world body to focus on long-range social issues, the U.N. chief said in an interview in Tuesday's New York Times. U.N. Secretary General Boutros Ghali said he planned to explain to the Security Council on Jan. 5 why some peacekeeping operations have failed and others have been successful. On this year's 50th anniversary of the United Nations, he told the daily he wanted to update his 1992 agenda for peace and "project a new image of the United Nations after the end of the cold war, dealing with the problems of tomorrow."

Israeli diplomat's wife killed in Nigeria

LAGOS (AFP) — The wife of an Israeli diplomat posted here was shot dead by bandits in southwestern Nigeria, the Israeli embassy said Tuesday. Shira Arnon was killed near Akure, capital of the state of Ondo as she was travelling in a car with her husband, David Arnon, and a Finnish couple on Monday afternoon, the embassy stated. The two Finns were wounded, one seriously, it said. Steps have been taken to repatriate Arnon's body, the embassy added, without giving further details.

Opposition urges probe Bahrain clashes

NICOSIA (AFP) — An exiled Bahraini opposition leader called Tuesday for an international commission to be set up to investigate clashes last month between security forces and Shiites. Sheikh Mohammad Ali Mahfuz, head of the banned Islamic Front for the Liberation of Bahrain, "asked the international community to set up a commission of enquiry to end human rights violations" in Bahrain. "Our people who are struggling to win their legitimate rights will brave the regime's barbaric repression and their uprising will continue until their demands are met," he said in a statement received in Cyprus.